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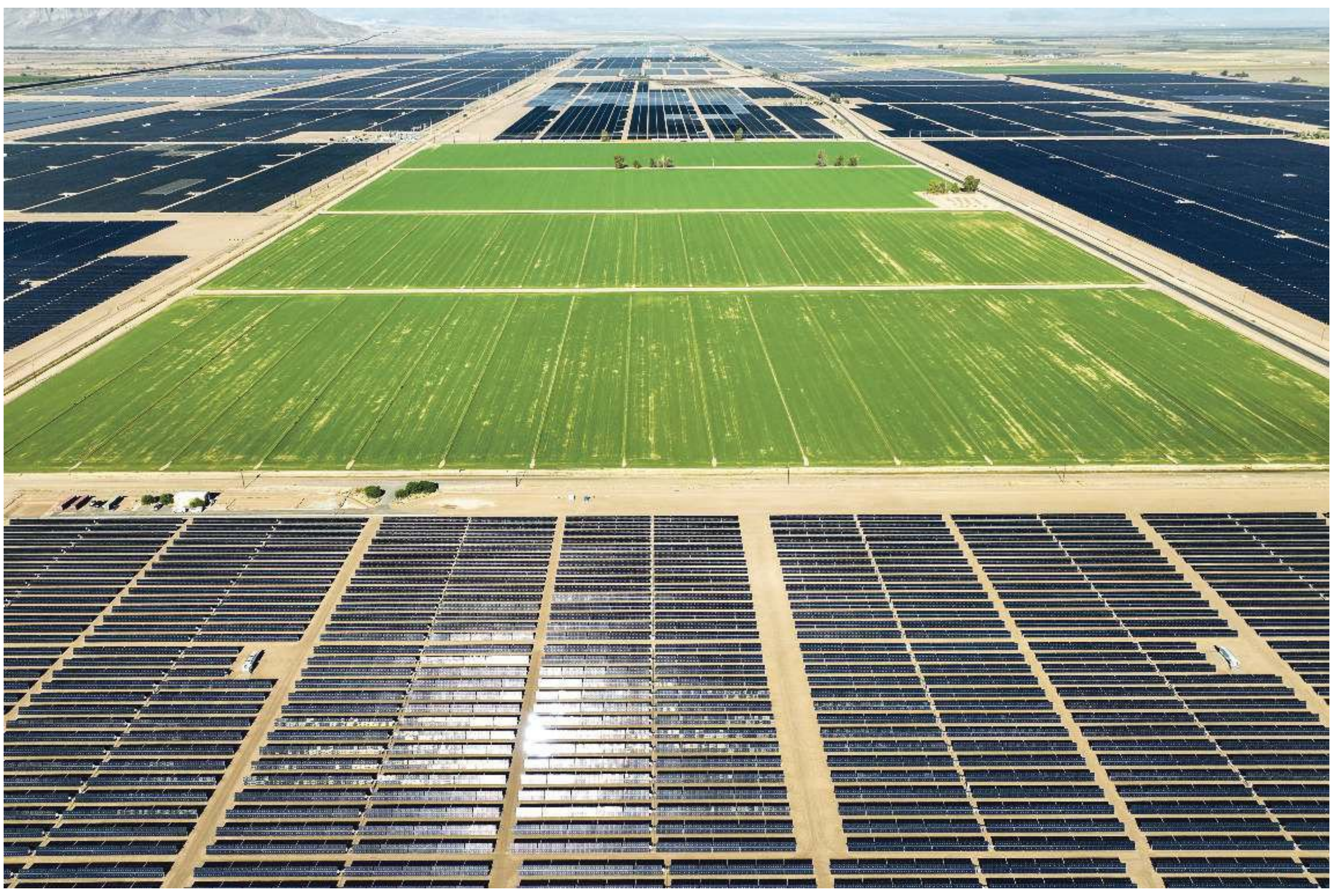
REPOWERING THE WEST



SOLAR FARMS surround an alfalfa field in the Imperial Valley. Agriculture is the only way of life many growers have known.

THE SWITCH TO SOLAR

STORY BY SAMMY ROTH | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT GAUTHIER

> Land that yielded crops can now capture energy. But farmers smell a water grab.

THE BARREN DIRT IS LITTERED with petrified carrots, blackened and barely recognizable after four years baking in the Imperial Valley's legendary heat. The August sun is starting to set, but it's still 113 degrees in California's hottest, driest county.

Ralph Strahm tried his best to make money off this ground. In addition to carrots, the soft-spoken 66-year-old grew alfalfa and Sudan grass, using Colorado River water that originated as Rocky Mountain snowpack hundreds of miles away.

But the sandy, gravelly soil refused to cooperate. The economics were no good.

So the third-generation Imperial Valley farmer decided to sell — to a solar energy developer.

"You have to be willing to accept the future," he says.

By year's end, a field of solar panels should cover this land, sending clean electricity to San Diego. A giant battery will help the coastal city keep the lights on after dark. None of the infrastructure will destroy pristine wildlife habitat.

And the Colorado River water that once irrigated these 400 acres? It will remain in Lake Mead, or be sent to nearby farms or other parts of the Southwest, helping the region cope with a dangerous drying trend.

If that sounds like an outcome to which nobody could object — well, welcome to the Imperial Valley.

Wedged in California's southeastern corner, it's one of the most important places you've probably never been.

To one side of Strahm's

[See **Repowering,** A10]

ABOUT THIS SERIES: Clean energy projects are badly needed to fight climate change — but they can fuel intense opposition in the communities where they're built. We're spotlighting examples of that tension across the West, with an eye toward finding solutions. This article is the second in the Repowering the West series. To read more from the series, scan the code with your phone.

Voters want De León gone, poll says

Majority of those in his council district say he should resign or would support a recall.

By Rachel Uranga and Melissa Gomez

Voters in Councilman Kevin de León's district have little confidence in him, and as a scandal involving racist comments continues to dog him, a majority want him to resign, a new Los Angeles Times poll shows.

The poll paints a grim picture for De León, the former state legislator and rising Democratic star who has adamantly refused to step down despite a chorus of calls to do so by everyone from protesters at City Council meetings to President Biden.

After a nearly two-month absence from the council, De León returned last month hoping to repair his reputation and promising to fight for constituents in his Latino, working-class district.

But voters are unsympathetic. By a wide margin, they said De León puts his political self-interest ahead of the people he represents. Even reliable supporters who voted for him in the past have lost faith, the poll found.

Only 23% of voters surveyed approve of the job De León is doing, compared with 48% who disapprove, the poll found. Just over half think he should resign, a quarter want him to stay in office, and 18% were undecided; 9% did not answer the question.

If a recall were to qualify for the ballot — petitions are currently circulating — 58% would support removing him from office, compared with 25% who would be opposed and 17% undecided, the survey found.

The poll of 400 registered voters in Council District 14 was conducted Jan. 10-16. It has a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.

De León's political collapse began in the fall, when a recording surfaced of him and two other Latino council members in a private meeting using racist insults as they plotted to reshape district maps.

The recording upended City Hall and sparked boisterous protests that led to the resignation of City Council president Nury Martinez and Los Angeles Labor Fed-

[See **De León,** A20]

ROAD CLOSED
ROAD CLO

Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

A CANDLE IS left on Harvest Avenue in the Tulare County town of Goshen, where six were killed Monday. The victims included a young mother and her baby.

'I am afraid to live here'

Slayings of six in Goshen highlight the drug trade's ferocity as criminals seek territory in isolated towns

By Ruben Vives, Rachel Uranga, Robert J. Lopez and Jessica Garrison

GOSHEN, Calif. — Two days after six people, including a baby, were executed here, neighbors watched warily as detectives from the Tulare County Sheriff's Office pored over the crime scene looking for evidence.

It was a busy morning in the neighborhood. A few houses away, agents wearing jackets that said "POLICE" rapped on the front door. When a Times reporter approached asking for information, a man wearing a badge that appeared to be from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration identified himself as a federal agent and said he was in the area on a separate case.

The man offered no further details, but the exchange illustrates a hard fact of life for many residents in these farm towns: Rural parts of the San Joaquin Valley have become some of the most violent places in California, with a bustling drug trade and among the highest rates of murder and lowest rates of solving murders.

According to a report last year from California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, Kern County had the highest ho-

[See **Goshen,** A8]

Beware of cars with that flooded smell

Many water-damaged vehicles wind up for sale again, and some will be risky buys.

By Daniel Miller

It's the smell that'll give it away.

"You had better get your face close to carpet," urged Ivan Drury of Edmunds, the automotive information service.

Now take a whiff.

"That gross, musty smell," said Drury, "that's a big red flag."

It means the vehicle probably has been in a flood. Soon, these may be the perils of shopping for a used car in California.

That's because hundreds, if not thousands, of vehicles were inundated during the series of rainstorms that ripped through much of the state in January. They generated the sort of flooding that can wreak havoc on automobiles — think: rusty floorboards, water-logged electronics and inoperable engines.

In the days and weeks ahead, a complex ecosystem of insurance companies, auction houses, car dealers and others will process these soggy automotive casualties. Many will eventually wind up for sale again. And at least some of those rides

[See **Vehicles,** A14]

Noah Berger Associated Press

A CAR is mostly submerged by floodwaters coursing through a neighborhood in Merced, Calif., on Jan. 10.

More classified records found
An FBI search of Biden's Wilmington, Del., home uncovers six more documents. **NATION, A6**

A Trojan until the very end
Learning of Charles White's dementia, USC tried to reconnect, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, D1**

Lunar New Year in Los Angeles
Usher in the Year of the Rabbit with local food, a festival, a parade and other events. **WEEKEND, L6**

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Tech expert pulls the plug on hype machine

MICHAEL HILTZIK

Rodney Brooks knows the difference between real technological progress and baseless hype.

One of the world's most accomplished experts in robotics and artificial intelligence, Brooks is a co-founder of IRobot, the maker of the Roomba vacuum cleaner; co-founder and chief technology officer of RobustAI, which makes robots for factories and warehouses; and former director of computer and artificial intelligence labs at MIT.

So when, in 2018, the Australian-born Brooks encountered a wave of unwarranted optimism about self-driving cars — "people were saying outrageous things, like, Oh, my teenage son will never have to learn to drive" — he took it as a personal challenge. In response, he compiled a list of predictions about autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, robots and space travel, and promised to review them every year until Jan. 1, 2050, when, if he's still alive, he will have just turned 95.

His goal was to "inject some reality into what I saw as irrational exuberance."

Each prediction carried a time frame — something would either have occurred by a given date, or no earlier than a given date, or "not in my lifetime."

Brooks published his fifth annual scorecard on New Year's Day. The majority of his predictions have been spot-on, though this time around he confessed to thinking that he, too, had allowed hype to make him too optimistic about some developments.

"My current belief is that things will go, overall, even slower than I thought five years ago," he wrote this year.

As a veteran technologist, Brooks has ideas about what makes laypersons, or even experts, excessively optimistic about new technologies.

People have been "trained by Moore's Law" to expect technologies to continue improving at ever-faster rates, Brooks told me.

His reference is to an observation made in 1965 by semiconductor engineer Gordon Moore that the number of transistors that could fit on a microchip doubled roughly every two years. Moore's observation became a proxy for the idea that computing power would improve exponentially over time.

That tempts people, even experts, to underestimate how difficult it may be to reach a chosen goal, whether self-aware robots or living on Mars.

One example is driverless cars, a technology with limitations that laypersons seldom recognize.

Brooks has written about his experience with Cruise, a service using self-driving taxis (no one in the front seat at all) in parts of San Francisco, Phoenix and Austin, Texas.

On his three Cruise trips, Brooks found that the vehicles avoided left-hand turns, preferring to make three right turns around a block instead, drove painstakingly slowly and once tried to pick him up in front of a construction site that would have exposed him to oncoming traffic. "The result is that it was slower by a factor of two over any human operated ride hailing service," Brooks wrote.

The annual scorecard is one of many outlets Brooks relies on to temper "irrational exuberance" about technology in general and AI specifically. He has been a frequent contributor to IEEE Spectrum, the house organ for the leading professional society of electronics engineers.

In an article titled "An Inconvenient Truth About AI" in September 2021, for instance, he noted how every wave of new developments in AI was accompanied by "breathless predictions about the end of human dominance in intelligence" amid "a tsunami of promise, hype and profitable applications."

In reality, Brooks wrote, almost every successful deployment of AI in the real world had either a human "somewhere in the loop" or a very low cost of failure. The Roomba, he wrote, functions autonomously, but its most dire failure might involve "missing a patch of floor and failing to pick up a dustball."

Robots today are common in industry and even around the home, but their capabilities are very narrow. Robot hands with true human-like dexterity have not advanced much in 40 years, Brooks says. That's also true of autonomous navigation around any home with its clutter, furniture and moving objects. "What is easy for humans is still very, very hard for robots," he writes.

As for ChatGPT, the AI prose generator that has garnered inordinate interest by high-tech enthusiasts, along with warnings that it may launch a new era of machine-driven plagiarism and academic fakery, Brooks argues for caution.

"People are making the same mistake that they have made again and again and again," he writes in his scorecard, "completely misjudging some new AI demo as the sign that everything in the world has changed. It hasn't."

None of this means that Brooks doubts the eventual creation of "truly artificial intelligences, with cognition and consciousness recognizably similar to our own," he wrote in 2008.

He expects "robots that will roam our homes and workplaces ... to emerge gradually and symbiotically with our society" even as "a wide range of advanced sensory devices and prosthetics" emerge to enhance and augment our own bodies: "As our machines become more like us, we will become more like them. And I'm an optimist. I believe we will all get along."

That brings us back to Brooks' 2023 scorecard. This year, 14 of his original predictions are deemed accurate, whether because they happened within the time frame he projected or failed to happen before the deadline he set.

Brooks is consistently skeptical of the projections of our most often-quoted technology entrepreneur, Elon Musk, who Brooks notes "has a pattern of over-optimistic time frame predictions."

A moon orbit of paying customers in the Falcon Heavy capsule of Musk's SpaceX doesn't look possible before 2024, Brooks observes. The landing of cargo on Mars for later use by humans, which Musk once forecast to happen by 2022, looks as if it won't happen before 2026, and even that date is "way over-optimistic."

Musk still hasn't fulfilled his 2019 promise that Tesla would place 1 million robotaxis on the road by 2020 — that is, a fleet of autonomous cars summoned through an Uber-like Tesla app. "I believe the actual number is still solidly zero," Brooks wrote.

As for Musk's dream of regular service between two cities on his Hyperloop underground transport system, Brooks places that in the "not in my lifetime" pigeonhole.

Several of Brooks' predictions remain open-ended, including some involving electric vehicles. In his original forecast, he projected that EVs would not reach 30% of U.S. car sales before 2027 or 100% before 2038.

The growth rate in EV sales became turbocharged in 2022 — increasing by 68% in the third quarter over the same quarter a year earlier. If that growth rate continued, then EVs would constitute 28% of new car sales in 2025.

That presupposes that the forces driving EV adoption continue. The head winds, however, shouldn't be underestimated. EV sales may have spiked because of the huge run-up in gasoline prices in 2021 and last year, but that inflationary trend has now disappeared. Battery factories may take longer to come online than expected, which could produce a shortage of these all-important components and drive EV prices higher.

Brooks doesn't wish to stifle human aspirations to build robots, AI systems, or space exploration.

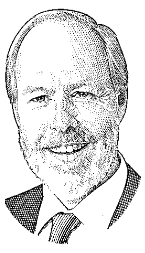
"I don't think we're limited in our capability to build human-like robots, ultimately," he says. "But whether we have any idea how to do it right now or whether all the ways we think are going to work are remotely correct, that's totally up for grabs."

Hiltzik writes a blog at latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

We're over COVID, but it's not done with us

DOYLE McMANUS



Three years after the United States logged its first case of COVID-19, the pandemic has slipped off the front pages and seemingly out of public consciousness.

Kids are back in schoolrooms, office workers are returning to offices, restaurants and bars are crowded. Most Americans have given up wearing masks, if they ever did, even in crowded indoor spaces.

But the pandemic isn't over. We're just pretending it is.

Over the last two months, the federal government has reported an average of about 450 deaths from COVID every day. That's far below the toll during last winter's killer surge but still adds up to more than 3,000 dead each week.

COVID is no longer feared as an equal opportunity disease. It's now mostly a threat to vulnerable populations, especially those 65 and older or with other medical problems.

That has freed the young and healthy to return to their pre-pandemic lives, and that's good news. But it has also divided the population between those who feel vulnerable and those who don't.

When Kaiser Family Foundation pollsters asked Americans if they worried about getting seriously sick from COVID this winter, 36% said they were either somewhat or very worried. Among people 65 or older, 43% said they were worried; among those 18 to 29, only 30%.

The poll also found divisions along racial and economic lines. Black and Latino people were more likely to say they worried about getting sick than white people. Low-income Americans were more worried than the affluent.

Those divisions, on top of the gradually declining death rate, have made it easier to demote the pandemic from a national crisis to just one of many chronic problems.

"We've reached what I would call a level of detente with the virus," said Jay Varma, an infectious disease specialist at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. "No elected official wants to say any death is acceptable. But they're essentially saying ... [that] we are accepting that number of losses."

Varma would like to see federal and local officials return to promoting mask-wearing and instant tests — on a voluntary basis, not through mandates. But he acknowledges that isn't happening.

Keith Humphreys, a professor of psychiatry at Stanford, said the crusade against COVID ran up against public exhaustion.

"People have decided that they're done with this," he said. "I would say there's a lot of ugly choices before us, and this is the least ugly."

That has put health policy experts in the Biden administration in a difficult spot.

Their boss, the president, ebulliently and prematurely declared the pandemic over in September, two months before the midterm election.

Republicans in Congress seized on that statement to zero out Biden's request for $10 billion for COVID vaccinations and treatment.

Now Biden's aides are scrambling to find ways to fight a pandemic that refuses to end, only with less money.

"We are obviously in a better place than we have been," Ashish Jha, Biden's COVID-19 response coordinator, told me last week. But "we still have an enormous number of Americans getting sick and dying from this virus. We still have a lot of work to do on that."

Congress' refusal to provide more money has hamstrung the federal effort to make sure everyone, including the uninsured, has access to vaccines and treatment and has jeopardized federal funding for a new generation of vaccines, he said.

"It unfortunately means that more people are going to unnecessarily suffer from this disease," he said.

Jha said he hopes to fund both priorities from existing programs in the Department of Health and Human Services but acknowledged that those plans aren't ready yet.

And he warned that next winter is likely to bring another surge of COVID and other respiratory diseases.

"There is a path forward to making sure that next winter is the best winter we've had in years," he said. "But it's going to take a lot of work; it's not going to happen naturally."

Varma has a different worry.

"People are coming to accept COVID as an inevitability," he said. "As a result, they're taking fewer precautions over time — less masking, less staying away from crowds, less updating of vaccinations. That has consequences. It leads to more infections. And eventually that will damage the economy, too."

We shouldn't be living as if we were stuck in 2020; the days of lockdowns, thankfully, are over.

But we'd better not assume that the pandemic will cooperate with our wishes.

Meanwhile, spare a thought for the millions who are vulnerable: the elderly, the immunocompromised, the low-income workers who can't work from home. And don't scoff at those of us who still wear masks to the grocery store.

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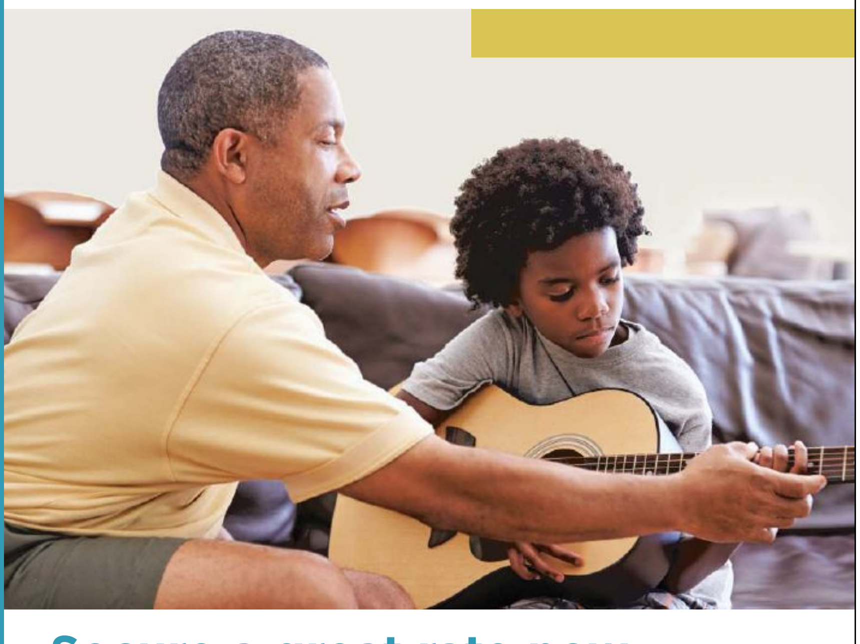

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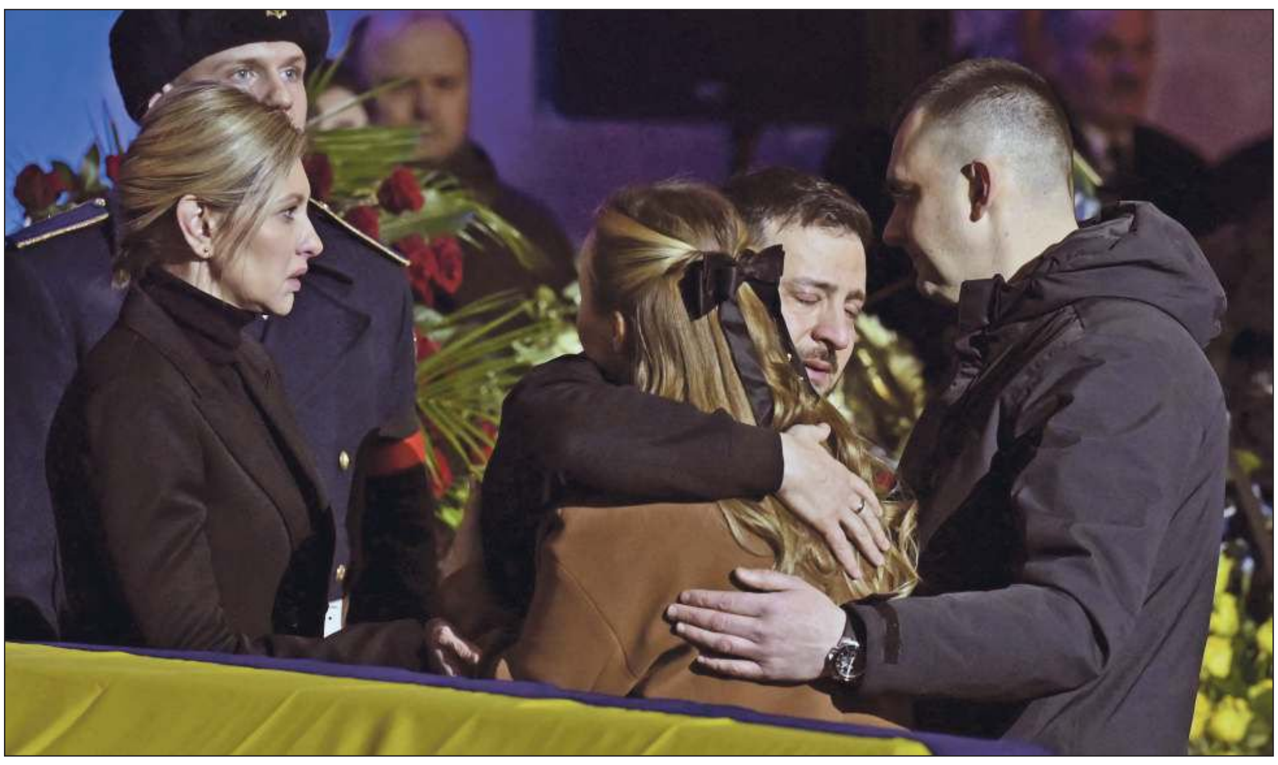

SERGEI SUPINSKY AFP/Getty Images

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky hugs a relative of one of the people killed in a Wednesday helicopter crash outside Kyiv. Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky was among the dozen or so people killed.

Zelensky honors helicopter crash victims

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held an emotional meeting Saturday morning with the families of those who died in a helicopter crash last week.

Zelensky spoke with family members of seven of those killed in Wednesday's crash in Brovary, a suburb of Kyiv, the capital. The helicopter carrying Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky and other top officials slammed into a kindergarten building in the residential suburb, killing him and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground.

Monastyrsky, who oversaw the country's police and emergency services, was the most senior official killed since Russia invaded Ukraine. His death, along with the rest of his ministry's leadership and the entire helicopter crew, was the second major calamity in five days to befall Ukraine, after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, killing dozens of civilians.

At the somber service in Kyiv, Zelensky and his wife laid flowers on each of the seven coffins draped in the blue and yellow flags of Ukraine. Zelensky then spoke briefly with the families, as a small orchestra played a mournful adagio.

The cause of the crash is not known; Zelensky has said only that it happened because the country is at war. That view was repeated by Ruslan Stefanchuk, chairman of Ukraine's parliament, speaking after the service.

"All this would not have happened if not for this terrible and undeclared war which the Russian Federation is waging against Ukraine," Stefanchuk said. "Therefore, we must remember this and not forget these people. Because for Ukraine and Ukrainians, every lost life is a great tragedy."

Russia's war in Ukraine, nearing the end of its 11th month, is "in a state of deadlock," with Ukrainian forces probably achieving small gains in the northeast, near the town of Kreminna, while Russian forces "have likely been reconstituting" in the eastern town of Soledar after claiming to seize it earlier in the week, the British Defense Ministry said Saturday.

"There is a realistic possibility of local Russian advances" around Bakhmut, an eastern city whose capture would give Moscow a long-awaited victory after months of setbacks, the British ministry said in its regular Twitter update.

Fierce battles for Bakhmut have been raging and three civilians were killed by Russian shelling in that area of the eastern Donetsk region, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office reported Saturday morning.

In total, five civilians were killed and 13 wounded by Russian shelling over 24 hours in Ukraine's east and south, where active fighting is ongoing, Kyrylo Tymoshenko said in a Telegram post.

Ukrainian forces overnight repelled Russian attacks in Bakhmut and other parts of the country's embattled east, the military said in a Facebook update Saturday morning.

A 60-year-old woman died after Russian shells hit her home in the northeastern Kharkiv region, local Gov. Oleh Sinegubov said in a Telegram update. He added that four other people were wounded in the province.

One woman was also killed in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where Russian forces launched more than 160 shelling attacks overnight, Gov. Oleksandr Starukh reported in a Telegram post.

He said that 21 cities and towns were targeted, and that two other civilians sustained injuries.

Brazil replaces army chief after riot at the capital

President Lula has said that some in the military let far-right uprising occur Jan. 8.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRASILIA — President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva fired Brazil's army chief Saturday amid concerns over threats to the country's democracy following the Jan. 8 violence in the capital by far-right protesters.

The official website of the Brazilian armed forces said Gen. Julio Cesar de Arruda had been removed as head of the army. He was replaced by Gen. Tomás Miguel Ribeiro Paiva, who was head of the Southeast Military Command.

In recent weeks, the military has been targeted by Lula after supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed through government buildings and destroyed public property.

Lula has said several times in public that there were people in the army who allowed the rioting to occur.

Rioters who stormed through Congress, the presidential palace and the Supreme Federal Court in Brasilia sought to have the military intervene and overturn Bolsonaro's loss to Lula in the October presidential election.

More than a thousand people were arrested on the day of the riot, which bore strong similarities to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by a mob who wanted to overturn then-President Trump's election defeat.

A Brazilian Supreme Federal Court justice earlier this month authorized adding Bolsonaro in its investigation into who incited the rioting in Brasilia as part of a broader crackdown to hold responsible parties to account.

According to the text of his ruling, Justice Alexandre de Moraes granted the request from the prosecutor-general's office, which cited a video that Bolsonaro posted on Facebook two days after the riot.

The video claimed Lula wasn't voted into office, but rather was chosen by the Supreme Federal Court and Brazil's electoral authority.

ERALDO PERES Associated Press

A WINDOW of Brazil's high court is left broken as officials investigate the Jan. 8 rioting in Brasilia.

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Machu Picchu closed down as protests engulf more of Peru

About 400 tourists — mostly foreign — are stranded at the site, an official says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Peru — Peru indefinitely shut the tourist site Machu Picchu on Saturday in the latest sign that anti-government protests that began last month are increasingly engulfing the South American country.

The Culture Ministry said it had closed the country's most famous tourist attraction as well as the Inca Trail leading up to the site "to protect the safety of tourists and the population in general."

There are 417 tourists stuck at Machu Picchu who can't get out, more than 300 of whom are foreigners, Luis Fernando Helguero, the tourism minister, said at a news conference.

The closure of the Incan citadel that dates back to the 15th century and is often referred to as one of the new seven wonders of the world comes as protesters have descended on the capital, Lima, largely from remote Andean regions, to demand the resignation of President Dina Boluarte.

Police raided Peru's most important public university in Lima on Saturday to evict protesters from faraway provinces who were being housed at the campus while participating in big demonstrations that began in the capital Thursday.

The protests, which until recently had been concentrated in the country's south, began last month shortly after President Pedro Castillo, Peru's first leader with a rural Andean background, was impeached and imprisoned after he tried to dissolve Congress. More than 55 people have died in the ensuing unrest.

The latest death happened Friday night, when one protester was killed and at least nine others injured in clashes with police in the southern Puno region.

Demonstrators are demanding the resignation of Boluarte, the former vice president sworn into office Dec. 7 to replace Castillo. They also want Congress dissolved and new elections held. Castillo is currently detained on charges of rebellion.

Some of the tourists stranded at Machu Picchu have chosen to leave by walking to Piscacucho, the nearest village, "but that involves a walk of six, seven hours or more and only a few people are able to do it," Helguero said.

Train service to Machu Picchu has been closed since Thursday because of damage to the tracks. Some visitors choose to get to Machu Picchu via the Inca Trail, which involves a multi-day hike.

This is not the first time tourists have been stuck at Machu Picchu since the protests began.

The Cuzco region, where Machu Picchu is located, has been the site of some of the most intense clashes between protesters and law enforcement, leading to significant loss of revenue for the tourism sector.

The Cuzco airport was briefly shut down last week after protesters tried to storm its facilities.

Tourists who had already bought tickets for Machu Picchu from Saturday until one month after the end of the protests will be able to obtain a full refund, the Culture Ministry said.

MARTIN MEJIA Associated Press

POLICE comfort a woman after she was confronted by anti-government protesters in Lima, Peru.

Top challenges facing a shrinking China

As population drops, supporting the elderly and filling military ranks may be difficult.

BY KEN MORITSUGU

MARK SCHIEFELBEIN Associated Press

A CHILD rides atop a suitcase at Beijing West Railway Station this month. China announced last week that its population had fallen by about 850,000 in 2022.

BEIJING — For seven decades, China's Communist Party has ruled the world's most populous country. As the nation's population crests and begins to shrink, experts say, it will face challenges as varied as supporting the elderly and filling the ranks of its military.

Population growth has been slowing for years, but the announcement Tuesday that the country's population fell by about 850,000 in 2022 came sooner than anticipated.

"Those developments ... may well feed domestic challenges at home and strategic challenges abroad. The party, in short, may be in for a rough go," said Michael Mazza, an analyst of Chinese military modernization at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Others are less pessimistic.

"China's increasingly becoming a higher-tech nation, so concentrating on improving the educational system, particularly in impoverished rural areas, and even in cities, is vital. So as well is increasing productivity. Wealthier people will buy more, which also increases GDP," said June Teufel Dreyer, a Chinese politics specialist at the University of Miami.

With the trend expected to continue, the United Nations estimates China's population will fall from 1.41 billion to about 1.31 billion by 2050 and keep shrinking.

In the late 1970s, worried that China's population was getting too big, the government adopted its "one-child policy." Beijing says the policy prevented 400 million additional births, but demographers disagree about how much of the drop in birthrates is explained by the policy.

The one-child policy came on top of existing societal changes, notably the many people relocating to cities during the economic boom, demographers say.

"Of course, the one-child policy had an effect," said Sabine Henning, who heads the demographic change section at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. "But lifestyles have changed. Living expenses have increased, so people are less inclined to have children. All of this has resulted ... in a further decline in fertility since the one-child policy stopped."

Experience in Europe and Japan shows how difficult it is to change mind-sets and reverse the decline with government incentives and campaigns.

Faced with a crashing birthrate, the policy was abandoned seven years ago, but efforts to encourage bigger families have been largely unsuccessful, like similar efforts in other countries. Europe and Japan have also struggled to change mind-sets and reverse the decline with government incentives and campaigns.

"It amazes me how everyone seems to agree that the planet already has too many people whose demands for even the basics of existence like food, water and shelter are placing intolerable demands on the ecosystem — yet as soon as the population of a country begins to decline, its government reacts with near-panic," Dreyer said.

Beijing's most immediate demographic challenge is an aging population: Tuesday's figures showed almost 20% of the population is 60 or older, and Chinese estimates say the number will rise to 30%, or more than 400 million people, by 2035.

Similar changes took decades in Europe.

"They had more time to adjust, whereas it's happening much faster in Asia," said Srinivas Tata, director of the social development division at the U.N. commission in Bangkok.

To support this population of retirees, China may increase the retirement age, currently 50 to 55 for women and 60 for men.

The demographic news comes as China's economy is still recovering from the three-year struggle against COVID-19, which not only battered the economy but sparked rare anti-government and anti-party protests.

Even with a shrinking population, China maintains considerable economic advantages over emerging manufacturing rivals such as Vietnam and India, which is set to overtake China as the world's most populous country this year. China has superior infrastructure and long-standing private sector relationships that it can rely on for years to come, said Mazza.

China's political system also plays a role, said Mary Gallagher, a scholar of Chinese politics at the University of Michigan.

"Becoming the workshop of the world ... requires a political system that can take advantage of that cheap young labor without much regard for the laborers' political and civil rights," Gallagher said.

U.S. economic sanctions and the push to block Beijing's access to cutting-edge microprocessors and chipmaking technology are further complicating efforts at recovery.

The party also faces a challenge finding qualified recruits for its military, the 2-million-member People's Liberation Army, experts say.

"It is doubtful that the PLA is getting the best and the brightest, given that families who have the means will discourage military service," said Dan Blumenthal, director of Asian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

Blumenthal warns, however: "That said, if [Chinese leader Xi Jinping] decides he wants a war over Taiwan, he will not be deterred by caring about one-child families."

Some American observers argue that these challenges could prompt Beijing to make aggressive moves sooner. With the U.S. refocused on the Indo-Pacific, China's economy slowing and the population shrinking, some in Washington see Beijing as facing a narrowing window for military action against the self-governing island that it claims as its territory.

Still, the effects may not be known for some time.

"Since demographic changes happen slowly, at least at the start of the turn, their effect on China's standing and influence globally will take time to happen," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the London University School of Oriental and African Studies.

Xi is committed to his program of achieving "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" by 2049, Tsang said — even if his country may be 100 million people smaller by then.

Moritsugu writes for the Associated Press.

Impatience with Berlin on Ukraine arms

BY GEIR MOULSON

BERLIN — Germany has become one of Ukraine's leading weapons suppliers in the 11 months since Russia's invasion, but Chancellor Olaf Scholz also has gained a reputation for hesitating to take each new step — generating impatience among allies.

Berlin's perceived foot-dragging, most recently on the Leopard 2 battle tanks that Kyiv has long sought, is rooted at least partly in a post-World War II political culture of military caution, along with present-day worries about a possible escalation in the war.

On Friday, Germany inched closer to a decision to deliver the tanks, ordering a review of its Leopard stocks in preparation for a possible green light.

There was still no commitment, however. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius rejected the suggestion that Germany was standing in the way but said, "We have to balance all the pros and contras before we decide things like that, just like that."

It's a pattern that has been repeated over the months as Scholz first held off pledging new, heavier equipment, then eventually agreed to do so.

Most recently, Germany said in early January that it would send 40 Marder armored personnel carriers to Ukraine — doing so in a joint announcement with the U.S., which pledged 50 Bradley armored vehicles.

That decision followed months of calls for Berlin to send the Marder and stoked pressure for it to move up another step to the Leopard tank.

"There is a discrepancy between the actual size of the commitment and weapons deliveries — it's the second-largest European supplier — and the hesitancy with which it is done," said Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, a Berlin-based senior analyst with the German Marshall Fund of the United States think tank.

Scholz, a politician with a stubborn streak who is reluctant to heed public calls for action, has stuck resolutely to his approach. He has said that Germany won't go it alone on weapons decisions and pointed to the need to avoid the North Atlantic Treaty Organization becoming a direct party to the war with Russia.

As pressure mounted this month, he declared that he wouldn't be rushed into important security decisions by "excited comments." And he insisted that a majority in Germany supports his government's "calm, well-considered and careful" decision-making.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, Scholz listed some of the equipment Germany has sent to Ukraine, declaring that it marks "a profound turning point in German foreign and security policy."

That is, at least to some extent, true. Germany refused to provide lethal weapons before the invasion started, reflecting a political culture rooted in part in the memory of Germany's own history of aggression during the 20th century — including the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

"No German chancellor, of no party, wants to be seen out front in pushing a military agenda — you want to try all other options before you resort to that," Kleine-Brockhoff said. "And therefore for domestic consumption, it is seen as a positive thing for a German chancellor not to lead on this, to be cautious, to be resistant, to have tried all other options."

Scholz does face calls from Germany's center-right opposition and some in his three-party governing coalition to be more proactive on military aid; less so from his own center-left Social Democratic Party, which for decades was steeped in the legacy of Cold War rapprochement pursued by predecessor Willy Brandt in the early 1970s.

Scholz "decided early on that he does not want to lead militarily on Ukraine assistance," Kleine-Brockhoff said, though "he wants to be a good ally and part of the alliance and in the middle of the pack."

But the cautious approach "drives allies crazy" and raises questions over whether they can count on the Germans, Kleine-Brockhoff acknowledged.

Berlin kept up its caution on the Leopard tank even after Britain announced this month that it would provide Ukraine its own Challenger 2 tanks.

The hesitancy isn't just an issue between Berlin and Kyiv, since other countries would need Germany's permission to send their own stocks of German-made Leopards to Ukraine. On Wednesday, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Warsaw would consider giving its tanks even without Berlin's permission.

"Consent is of secondary importance here. We will either obtain it quickly, or we will do the right thing ourselves," Morawiecki said.

British historian Timothy Garton Ash wrote in the Guardian and other newspapers last week that "to its credit, the German government's position on military support for Ukraine has moved a very long way since the eve of the Russian invasion."

But he argued that the tank issue has become "a litmus test of Germany's courage to resist [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's nuclear blackmail, overcome its own domestic cocktail of fears and doubts, and defend a free and sovereign Ukraine," and that Scholz should lead a "European Leopard plan."

Whether that will eventually happen remains to be seen. Scholz's government has insisted on close coordination with the United States, a possible reflection in part of the fact that Germany — unlike Britain and France — relies on the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

On Friday, Scholz's spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, denied reports that Germany had insisted it would deliver Leopard tanks only if the U.S. sends its own Abrams tanks. He rejected the notion that Berlin is trailing others and insisted that it is taking the right approach.

"These are not easy decisions, and they need to be well-weighed," he said. "And this is about them being sustainable, that all can go along with them and stand behind them — and part of a leadership performance is keeping an alliance together."

The United States has resisted providing M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, citing extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehicles.

Washington believes it would be more productive to send German Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops would need less training than on the more difficult Abrams tanks.

Moulson writes for the Associated Press.

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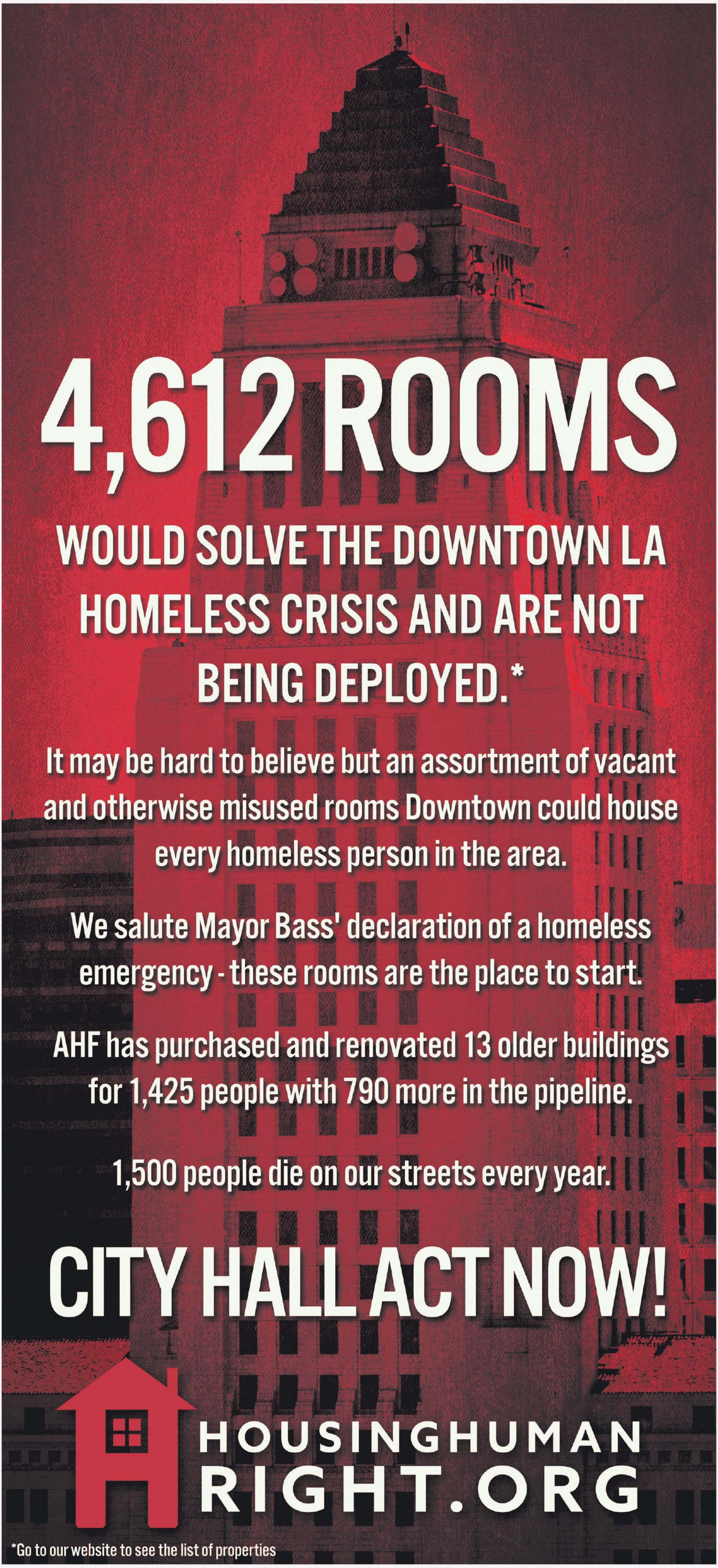

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White House aide likely to exit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, who has spent more than two years as President Biden's top aide, is preparing to leave his job in the coming weeks, according to a person familiar with Klain's plans.

Klain's expected departure comes not long after the White House and Democrats had a better-than-expected showing in the November election, buoyed by a series of major legislative accomplishments, including a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a sweeping climate, healthcare and tax package that all Republicans rejected.

The personnel change is a rarity for an administration that has seen minimal turnover. No member of Biden's Cabinet has stepped down, in stark contrast to the frequent staff turmoil and other crises of former President Trump's White House.

Klain's tenure as chief of staff is the longest for a Democratic president in modern times.

The person familiar with Klain's plans was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, so spoke on condition of anonymity to confirm the development, which was first reported by the New York Times.

The White House did not return calls or emails seeking comment on Klain's expected exit.

Now that Republicans have regained a majority in the House, the White House is preparing to shift to a more defensive posture. GOP lawmakers are planning multiple investigations into the Biden administration, examining everything from the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan to U.S. border policy. Republicans also are pledging to investigate the president's son Hunter Biden.

AL DRAGO Bloomberg

RON KLAIN reportedly plans to leave after two years as President Biden's chief of staff. Biden's choice to fill the post could further shake up his administration.

Klain's departure also comes as the White House struggles to contain the fallout after classified documents from Biden's vice presidency were discovered at his home in Wilmington, Del., and at his former office at an institute in Washington. Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland has appointed a special counsel to investigate the matter.

Among those on the shortlist to succeed Klain are Steve Richetti, counselor to the president; Labor Secretary Marty Walsh; former White House COVID-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients; Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack; and Anita Dunn, a White House senior advisor.

Dunn has previously ruled out interest in the job, but if that were to change she could be the first woman in the post. She played a leading role in shaping Biden's political and communications strategy, including the "ultra-MAGA" framing of Republicans that helped Democrats exceed expectations in the 2022 midterms.

Zients has returned to the White House after running the COVID-19 response team, taking on a low-profile role to ensure the administration is appropriately staffed for the remainder of Biden's first term.

Richetti, a former lobbyist, was Biden's final vice presidential chief of staff, following Klain and senior advisor Bruce Reed.

Walsh, who was mayor of Boston before joining the Cabinet, earned praise from Biden as recently as Friday for his job performance.

Vilsack, a former Iowa governor, is in his second stint as Agriculture secretary after serving in the role for the entirety of the Obama administration. He also volunteered for Biden's ill-fated 1988 presidential campaign in Iowa.

Klain, a longtime Democratic operative, has overseen a West Wing that has been largely free of the high-stakes drama that permeated the upper echelons of the Trump administration.

Klain has been an outspoken proponent of Biden's agenda via Twitter, where he frequently engages with reporters to defend the president's record.

The Indianapolis native has served under Biden for decades, including as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee when Biden was its chairman. Klain also worked on judicial picks in the Clinton White House, helping with Ruth Bader Ginsberg's Supreme Court nomination.

"With all due respect to my predecessors, I'm sure this is a higher priority for me," Klain said in an Associated Press interview last month, discussing the importance Biden has put on seating judges on the federal bench. "The fact that [the president] makes it such a priority, makes it a big priority for me."

Klain helped lead then-Vice President Al Gore's legal team during the 2000 election's Florida vote recount in the race against Republican George W. Bush. Actor Kevin Spacey portrayed Klain in HBO's "Recount," a drama chronicling the events that determined the presidency.

More classified Biden papers found

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The FBI searched President Biden's home in Wilmington, Del., on Friday and located six additional documents containing classified markings and also took possession of some of his notes, the president's lawyer said Saturday.

The documents taken by the FBI spanned Biden's time in the Senate and the vice presidency, while the notes dated to his time as vice president, said Bob Bauer, the president's personal lawyer. He added that the search of the premises lasted nearly 13 hours. The level of classification, and whether the documents removed by the FBI remained classified, was not immediately clear as the Justice Department reviews the records.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Joseph Fitzpatrick confirmed Saturday that the FBI had executed "a planned, consensual search" of the president's residence in Wilmington.

The search came more than a week after Biden's attorneys found six classified documents in his home library from his time as vice president, and nearly three months after lawyers found a "small number" of classified records at his former offices at the Penn Biden Center in Washington.

It came a day after Biden told reporters that "there's no there there" on the document discoveries, which have become a political headache as he is believed to be preparing a reelection bid and undercut his efforts to portray an image of propriety to the public after the tumultuous presidency of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

"We found a handful of documents were filed in the wrong place," Biden told reporters Thursday in California. "We immediately turned them over to the [National] Archives and the Justice Department."

Biden added that he was "fully cooperating and looking forward to getting this resolved quickly."

The president and his wife, Jill Biden, were not at the home when it was searched. They were spending the weekend at their home in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

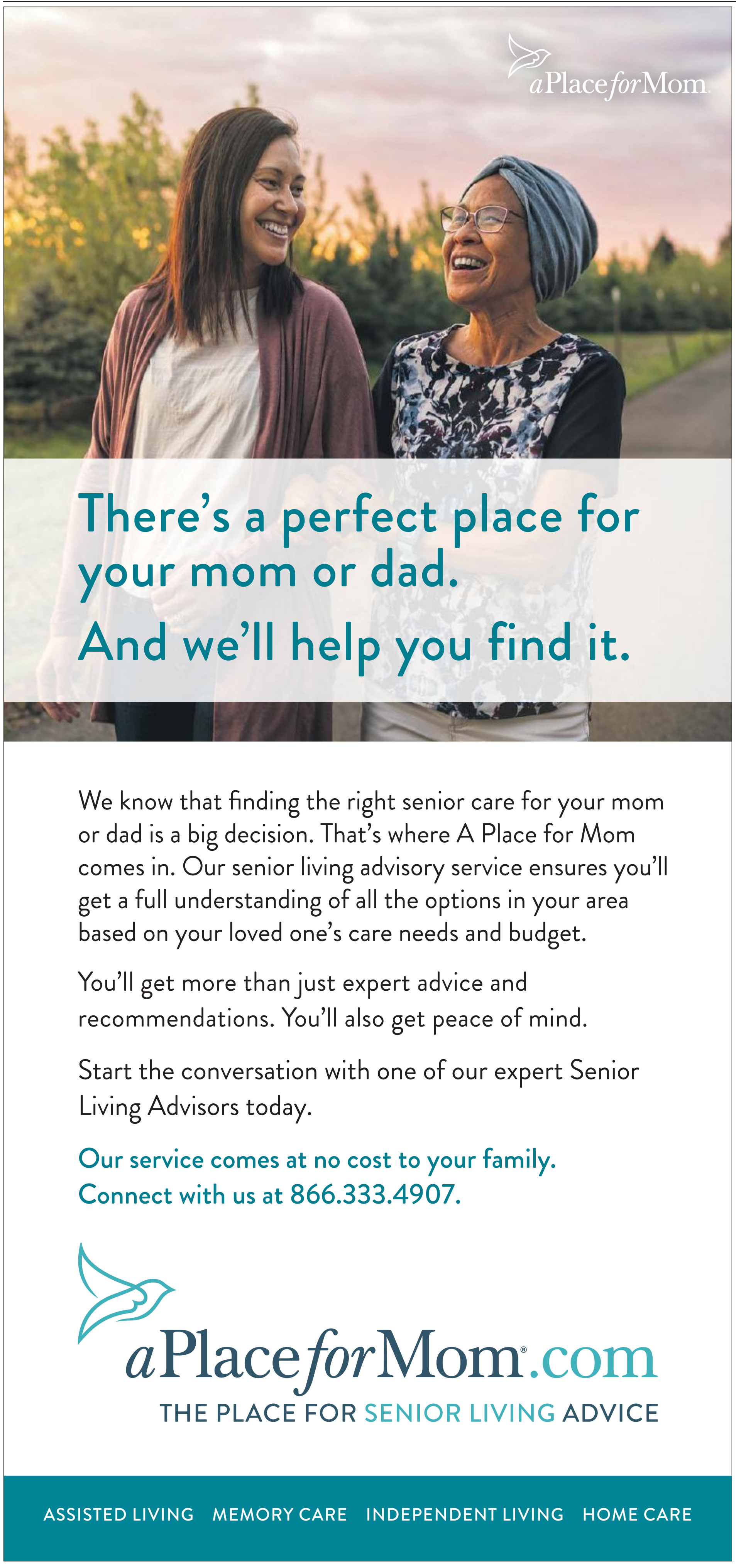
It remains to be seen whether federal officials will search other locations. Biden's personal attorneys had combed through the Rehoboth Beach residence and said they did not find official documents or classified records.

The Biden investigation has also complicated the Justice Department's probe into Trump's retention of classified documents and official records after he left office. The Justice Department says Trump took hundreds of records marked classified with him upon leaving the White House in early 2021 and resisted months of requests to return them to the government. It had to obtain a search warrant to retrieve them from his estate and residence at Mar-a-Lago in Florida.

Bauer said the FBI requested that the White House not comment on the search before it was conducted and that Biden's personal and White House attorneys be present.

The FBI, Bauer added, "had full access to the president's home, including personally handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, to-do lists, schedules and reminders going back decades."

The Justice Department, he said, "took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding materials."



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Treasury secretary warns debt standoff risks ‘self-imposed calamity’

Yellen, visiting Africa, says Congress is likely to ultimately raise the borrowing limit.

By Fatima Hussein

DAKAR, Senegal — U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L.Yellen said Saturday that she expects Congress will ultimately vote to raise America’s debt limit, but that House Republicans’ demands for spending cuts in return are “very irresponsible” and risk creating a “self-imposed calamity” for the global economy.

The Biden administration and GOP lawmakers have been at loggerheads over increasing the federal government’s legal borrowing capacity. The government hit the current $31.381-trillion debt cap Thursday, forcing the Treasury Department to take “extraordinary” accounting steps to keep the government running.

In an interview with the Associated Press during her trip to Africa, Yellen said that threatening to withhold approval for a higher debt limit unless there are spending cuts was “a very irresponsible thing to do” and could have serious consequences even before “the day of reckoning.”

“It is possible for markets to become quite concerned about whether or not the U.S. will pay its bills,” she said, pointing to the negative economic effects of the 2011 debt showdown.

A default, Yellen said, would be “a self-imposed calamity in the United States and the world economy.”

The Treasury’s extraordinary measures mean the government should be able to operate into June, when the limit must be increased to avoid potentially significant economic damage.

Yellen said she had not spoken with newly elected House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield). He has yet to spell out the size and targets of the cuts he contends are needed.

President Biden and administration officials have called for a “clean increase” to the debt limit — one that is not linked to cuts — saying an extended impasse could lead to a deep recession that would echo worldwide if faith is lost in the U.S. government’s credit.

“Congress needs to understand that this is about paying bills that have already been incurred by decisions with this and past Congresses, and it’s not about new spending,” Yellen said. She said she believes in making sure debt levels are sustainable, “but it can’t be negotiated over whether or not we’re going to pay our bills.”

Yellen said she believes the situation ultimately will be defused because lawmakers can appreciate the escalating danger if the federal government is unable to pay its bills: crashing financial markets, mass firings, and an economic downturn that could jeopardize America’s standing in the world.

The Treasury secretary said officials from the White House and her department “are meeting to discuss possible paths forward. And we will have discussions with members of Congress to try to understand what they see as a path forward.”

The White House said Friday that Biden “looks forward” to discussing a range of topics with McCarthy, but did not mention an invitation or a date for a meeting.

Yellen said the administration’s position remains to not negotiate over the debt limit; she did not detail possible administration strategies to ensure the ceiling is raised.

“Congress has to do it,” she said. “It has to be done. It can’t be something that’s contingent on cuts.”

Yellen sat down for the interview Saturday in the middle of a continent-spanning trip in which she met with her Chinese counterpart in Switzerland before heading to Senegal, Zambia and South Africa.

The Biden administration is signaling support for improving the economies of African countries, many of which have young populations that will make those nations the drivers of growth in decades to come. At an African nation summit in Washington last month, Biden said he would visit the continent this year.

Before the interview, Yellen went to Senegal’s Goree Island, where she toured a building known as the House of Slaves that was a center for the Atlantic slave trade that defined much of U.S. history.

The economist and former Federal Reserve chair has emphasized her desire to reduce racial and income inequality, an element of the systemic racism tied to slavery and its aftermath of segregation. For Democrats, the issues are not just a matter of social justice but political pragmatism, given that Black voters are a key constituency.

Yellen said the administration had not turned to reparation payments or programs for slaves’ descendants.

“We have a program to try to address these issues that involves many positive steps and adjustments and increasing opportunity,” she said.

The administration is trying to appeal to African countries on moral terms, saying aid and loans from the U.S. will be transparent and fair in ways that Chinese investments have not.

Relations between the U.S. and China — the world’s two largest economies — have become increasingly antagonistic amid China’s friendship with Russia, the persistence of the coronavirus, and open globalization that has given way to national security priorities.

The last two U.S. administrations have challenged China’s trade practices, with the Biden administration limiting advanced computer chip exports as it tries to boost the U.S. sector.

“We want to make sure that we don’t create the same problems that Chinese investment has sometimes created here. That we have ... projects that really bring broad-based benefits to the African people and don’t leave a legacy of unsustainable debt.”

Yellen said she had been struck by “a sense of dynamism and optimism among all of the government officials and private sector people” she had met in Senegal.

She pointed to female entrepreneurs who have received seed money through the Senegalese government.

“There’s a kind of vibrancy about the country and a can-do spirit that we saw,” Yellen said. “They’re coming up with very innovative and original ideas about what they can do to both satisfy local needs and ... find a global market.”

Hussein writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Josh Boak in Baltimore contributed to this report.

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Farm town rattled by fatal shootings

Photographs by Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

SIX PEOPLE, including a 16-year-old mother and her 10-month-old baby, were killed Monday in the Tulare County town of Goshen.

FEDERICO Peña says his family came to the Goshen area in the 1950s to work in the fields. He bought his home in the 1970s.

A GOP lawmaker says gangs and drug traffickers are targeting isolated towns known to have sparse law enforcement presence.

[**Goshen,** from A1]

micide rate in the state in 2021, with 13.7 killings per 100,000 people. Merced County came in second, at 9.5, followed by Tulare, where the massacre happened Monday, at 8.8. The homicide rate statewide was 6. In Marin County, it was 0.4.

Little-known rural enclaves such as Goshen — which many Californians glimpse from the window of car speeding between Los Angeles and Yosemite or Sacramento or Lake Tahoe — have become coveted transit points for methamphetamine, fentanyl and other drugs. Layers of criminal organizations including Mexican cartels, prison syndicates and local street gangs all vie for a piece of the real estate.

While authorities have not publicly identified suspects or an exact motive for the massacre, they have said they suspect it was likely related to this trade and its attendant conflict.

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said two shooters barged into the family compound about 3:30 a.m. Monday, hunting down and killing six people, including a 72-year-old grandmother in her bed, a 16-year-old mother and her infant. The sheriff singled out those three as innocent victims, but said members of the household were involved in gangs.

Boudreaux initially said that it was the work of a Mexican drug cartel, without providing evidence. He dialed back the statement the next day, saying the killings were likely the work of local gangs or cartels, or a combination of them.

Whatever the circumstance, the level of violence rattled the rural community.

"It makes me scared to come home at night," said Alicia Zavala, who lives near the Goshen property where the killings took place. "After this happened, I am afraid to live here."

Assemblyman Devon Mathis (R-Visalia), who represented the area until the most recent redistricting, said Goshen is one of many "county islands" in the valley — small unincorporated communities, impoverished, lacking their own police forces. Gangs and drug smugglers dig in there, knowing law enforcement presence is sparse.

"We have a vulnerability, and it is being exposed," Mathis said.

He is dismayed how many of his colleagues in the Assembly are flabbergasted to hear about ferocious gangs in the San Joaquin Valley, viewing it as a problem for cities, not for rural areas.

Drug-trade-related violence has plagued the region for decades.

The San Joaquin Valley, which stretches more than 200 miles from Bakersfield to Stockton, is one of the richest farming regions in the world. The snow-capped peaks of Sierra Nevada water the fields that roll across the valley. The long rows of grapes and tomatoes, the orchards of almonds and peaches, give way to towns and cities, home to about 4.3 million people, with income disparity among the starkest in California.

The cities of Fresno, Merced, Visalia, Exeter and Bakersfield have pockets of great wealth, but in the dusty towns where many of the people who do the picking and planting live, homes are often crowded and run-down, and streets often lack sidewalks, streetlights, even pavement and potable water lines.

Many of the adults in these towns labor long hours in the fields or packinghouses for subsistence wages. Their children grow up in areas with substandard schools and little to do after the bell rings.

"A lot of these kids have no supervision at home, and they're out and about on the streets, hanging around with other kids who are in the same situation," said Mike Alvarez, 60, founder of Changing Minds One At A Time Foundation, one of the few gang intervention groups in Tulare County.

That makes them an easy recruiting target for gangs.

The rural areas — with few officers on patrol and located along one of the West Coast's major north-south transportation corridors — have long been attractive for drug traffickers. Tulare County has, despite its population of less than half a million, historically played a prominent role in the transnational movement of drugs, money and guns.

In the 1970s, drug traffickers began hiring crop-duster pilots to fly loads of drugs here from the mountains of Mexico's Sinaloa state. The flight was at the limit a small plane could make without refueling.

Some of the little houses in towns without police departments or streetlights just off Route 99 have served as stash houses for drugs moving north from the border and money and guns moving in all directions.

This combination of lucrative drug smuggling and gang culture has sparked high levels of violence. Officials said the policing challenge is often made more difficult because many harbor deep distrust of law enforcement, either because they fear deportation or because the sheriff's departments in many of these counties engaged in brutal standoffs against farmworkers, particularly during Cesar Chavez's grape strikes. It is something Boudreaux said his department is working on.

> 'People think of Goshen, they think it's full of drug people, gangsters, you know, the North and the South. You don't see that all the time. You do see it once in a while, but that happens everywhere.'
>
> — Federico Peña, Goshen resident

"We continue to develop that trust as best we can. When you call 911, we're there. It doesn't matter who you are," he told a local television station Friday.

Since the early 1980s, the local paper, the Visalia Times Delta, has been decrying the rates of violence in some of the farm towns of Tulare County.

In 2007, the paper launched a months-long series on the gang problem, leading one edition with a banner headline: "Gang Wars." That story quoted Boudreaux, then a sergeant, talking about a killing of an 11-year-old Goshen boy who was leaving a party.

Boudreaux, who has led the Sheriff's Office since 2013, and other law enforcement officials from around the valley have repeatedly held news conferences and sent out news releases, touting suppression-focused tactics and proclaiming victories over street gangs. Local, state and federal authorities have used court injunctions, undercover investigations and multiagency task force operations with names such as "Lucky Charm" and "Red Reaper." Two years ago, in announcing the results of "Operation Stray Bullet," authorities touted the arrest of 25 suspects in Tulare County who were accused of committing dozens of drive-by shootings, including one that wounded an 8-year-old girl.

"I can proudly say we are safer than we were yesterday," Boudreaux said at the time, vowing to continue targeting gang members and "hunt them down and put them behind bars."

Last year, authorities announced that they had dismantled a gun- and methamphetamine-trafficking operation that stretched from Mexico to the San Joaquin Valley and south Texas.

Federal agents and local police wiretapped phones calls of suspected Sureño gang members who lived in Tulare County and allegedly bought kilos of cocaine in Mexico and sold the drugs in Texas, where they purchased firearms, according to a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Fresno.

The persistence of the problem, some experts say, underscores the limits of law enforcement operations in stemming the bloodshed connected to drug trafficking and street gangs.

"As much as society likes to think that law enforcement can eliminate gang violence, our history proves the opposite," said Jonathan C. Hernandez, who interviewed dozens of local gang members for a doctoral dissertation at Fresno State focused on Latino street gangs in the Central Valley.

Hernandez, 38, a communications professor at Porterville College who was raised in the valley, said that more prevention and interdiction efforts are needed, including those that rely on the experience of former gang members.

"We need to communicate with former gang members to get their insight [and] understand them and truly try to empathize with them," he said.

Even with this history, the violence in Goshen shocked residents and police officers alike.

"Those killings seemed to come out of the blue," said Dennis Townsend, chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, who added that violence had been on a downward trajectory until recently. Like many elected officials from the conservative area, he said he thought tough-on-crime laws could improve safety.

Goshen was founded in the 1870s as part of the expansion of the Central Pacific Railroad. When a branch line was built from Goshen to Visalia in 1874, people had high hopes that it would lead to prosperity for the town, but the boom never arrived.

The community's residential areas are tucked within the truck stops and light industry that bloomed along Highway 99. The night is broken by the big rigs rumbling through. A 2018 Tulare County planning document designates the community as "disadvantaged."

"There are a lot of drugs here," said Maria Hernandez, as she headed toward the store with her walker. *"Es un desastre,"* the 71-year-old added. *It's a disaster.*

Hernandez once worked in the nearby fields and has been in the area for years. She said she lives by a creed, one that many in similar barrios do: *"No nos metemos para nada." We don't get involved.*

The community finds strength in its solidarity, with generations of families living there.

"People think of Goshen, they think it's full of drug people, gangsters, you know, the North and the South," said Federico Peña.

He was talking about how the town is in the vague borderland between criminal organizations — not the least of which are the Norteño street cliques under the sway of the Nuestra Familia prison gang and Sureños under the Mexican Mafia.

But Peña said violence does not dominate life here.

"You don't see that all the time," he said. "You do see it once in a while, but that happens everywhere."

Peña said his family came to the area in the 1950s to work in the fields. He bought his home in the 1970s, and many of his brothers and sisters lived in the area.

The story was similar for the family who suffered the attack. The Parraz family arrived in the 1940s from New Mexico, said Ernesto Parraz. They came to California with a *"pala"* — a shovel — to work the land. His parents purchased a property on Harvest Avenue, which was divided and given to four brothers.

It was one of those parcels that was attacked Monday morning. Among those killed were Rosa Parraz, 72, Eladio Parraz Jr., 52, and Marcos Parraz, 19, along with Rosa's granddaughter, Alissa Parraz, 16, and her son, Nycholas, 10 months old. Also slain was Jennifer Analla, 50, the girlfriend of a man who survived the attack and has not been publicly identified.

As police swarmed around his slain relatives' home, Ernesto Parraz, who is being treated for cancer, sat on a folding chair in front of his own house, trying to catch some sun after days of shocking grief and rain. Storm water still puddled on the street, with little drainage.

Parraz's phone rang off the hook. A relative who lived at one of the homes drove up to see him. With police cordoning off the area, he hadn't been able to get in for days.

The two men embraced.

"Senseless," Parraz said.

ERNESTO PARRAZ, right, mourns the loss of family members as friend Joe Hernandez visits him Wednesday. Parraz, who is being treated for cancer, had sought sunlight after days of grief and rain.

DO YOU HAVE HEART FAILURE

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[**Repowering,** from A1]

farm is the Sonoran Desert at its most stark, where creosote-studded washes give way to glimmering sand dunes and craggy mountain peaks.

To the other side is an astonishingly productive agricultural empire. Nearly half a million acres of lush green fields sprawl into the distance, popping out lettuce, sugar beets, onions, cattle feed and more.

If you've ever eaten a salad in the winter, there's a good chance some of the veggies came from here. Not many places stay warm enough year-round for this kind of bounty.

But keeping the vegetable aisle stocked comes at a cost. Imperial County farm barons use more Colorado River water than the rest of California combined.

And as the planet heats up, there's less and less water to go around.

The heat storm that struck California just before Labor Day offered a taste of what's coming.

Temperatures were so high that the state nearly ran out of power as tens of millions of people cranked up their air conditioners.

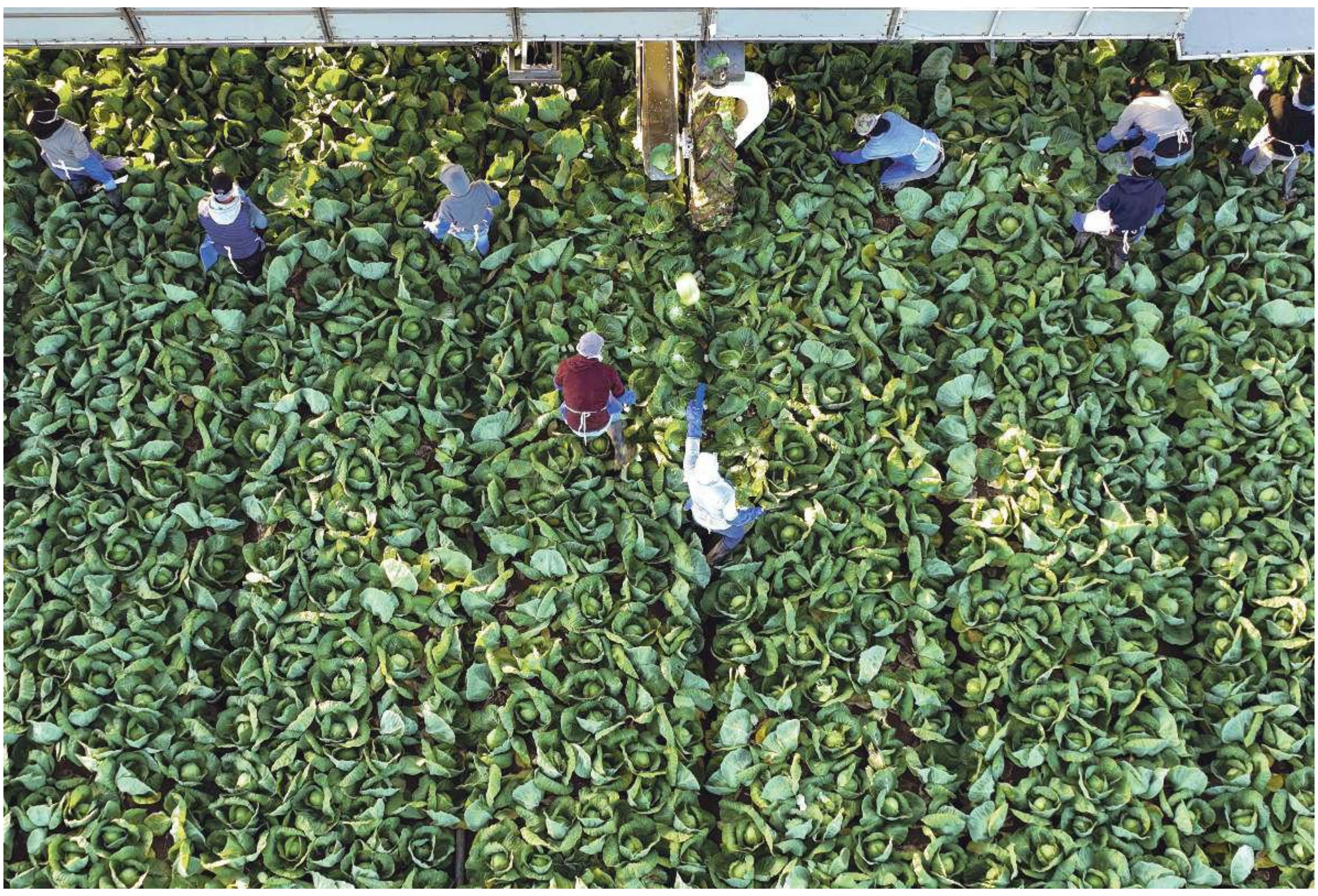
For 10 straight days, officials begged the public to use less electricity. Major utility companies barely avoided rolling blackouts — an increasingly common occurrence as climate change brings more extreme weather.

Strahm's vegetable graveyard could be part of the solution.

Clean energy advocates see Imperial as an ideal place for solar farms and battery projects that can help solve the American West's energy and water crises. The land is flat; the sunlight, abundant. The Colorado River desperately needs relief. And Imperial is one of California's poorest counties, its agriculture-heavy economy practically crying out for diversification and higher-paying jobs.

But resistance to change runs deep, particularly among the few hundred families who own all the farmland.

Agriculture is the only way of life many of them have known, and they're raring to defend it.



CABBAGE, top, is harvested in Imperial. Above, Ralph Strahm stands in a former carrot field soon to be a solar farm. Those 400 acres will no longer draw precious Colorado River water.

Their ancestors settled here a century ago, staking an early claim to the Colorado and carving canals to carry its riches through the desert. Again and again, they've faced pressure to sell water to coastal cities. They're ready to pounce on anything that smells like a water grab.

And to some of them, solar power smells like a water grab.

Similar conflicts between agriculture and renewable energy are playing out across the country, especially in drought-stressed areas. As some farmers strike deals with solar and wind developers, their neighbors treat the industry like an invading force.

Lurking beneath these battles are urgent questions with no easy answers: What is the land's best use? Who gets to decide? And how do we balance water conservation, food production and clean power generation in an era of climate emergency?

Los Angeles Times journalists spent the first few days of the late-summer heat wave in Imperial, returning in the fall and winter to see harvesting and planting.

We visited solar farms, alfalfa fields, geothermal plants and the dying Salton Sea. We talked with landowners, workers, energy executives and elected officials.

They offered wildly diverging visions of the region's future.

One takeaway was obvious: If the world keeps getting hotter, nobody wins.

①

'WE HAVE SUCH A TARGET ON OUR BACK'

THE IRRIGATED EXPANSES of Imperial's Southend unfurl in every direction, an eerily flat landscape interrupted only by the 2,500-foot peak of Mt. Signal just south of the U.S.-Mexico border. The mountain looms like a watchtower over the farm fields — and the sweeping solar projects right alongside them.

This is where Trevor Tagg learned to despise the solar industry.

We meet up with Tagg just after sunrise on our first morning in Imperial, at his company's office in El Centro, the county seat. He knows we're here to tell a story about solar power. But from the moment we climb into his truck, he wants to talk water.

"There isn't anything else. The only resource that's here is the water, which is why we have such a target on our back," he says.

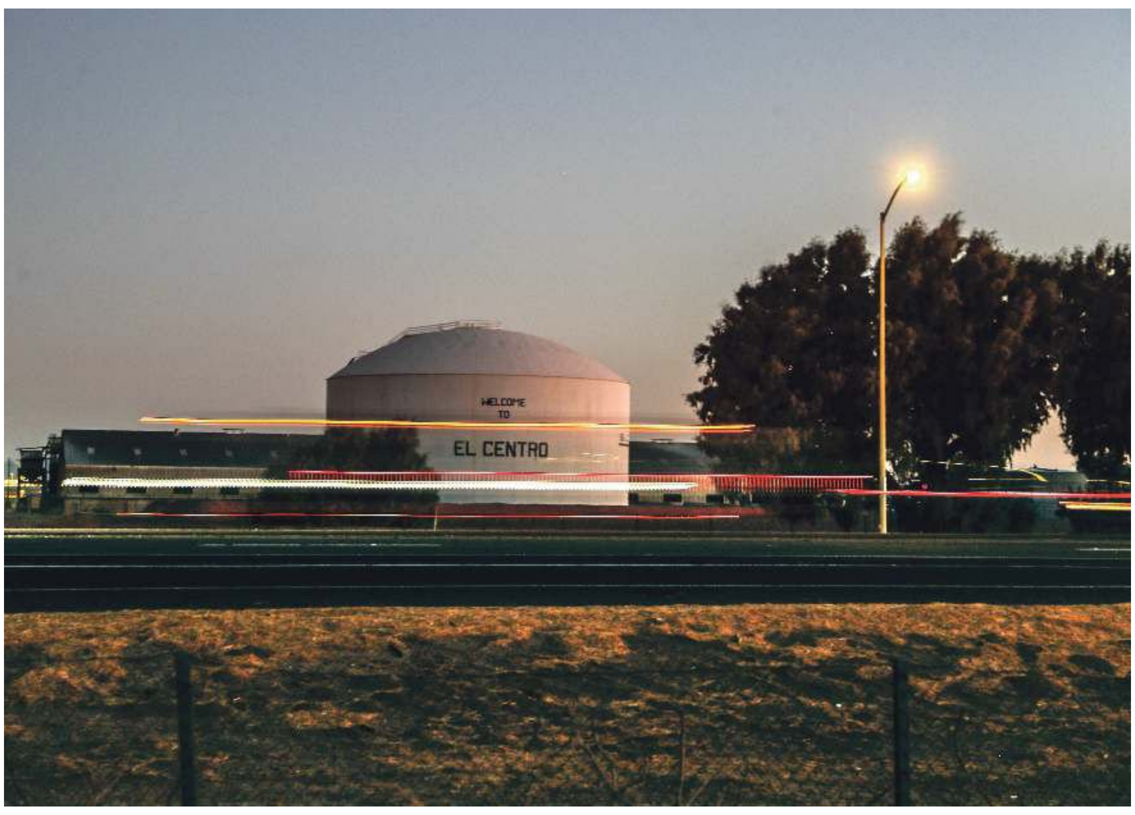
As Tagg drives south toward his farm fields — camouflage-patterned pads adorning his front seats — he describes the family business. He works with his dad and brother, running a company with about a dozen employees and 3,000 acres under production.

They grow mostly alfalfa and grasses, packing the crops into hay bales to feed livestock. The process requires colossal amounts of water. Of the 830 billion gallons that flowed through the Imperial Valley in 2021, roughly 240 billion went to alfalfa fields.

Add in Bermuda, Sudan and Klein grass, and 60% of the valley's irrigated acreage was dedicated to crops that feed animals.

All told, Imperial Valley feed crops consume more water each year than the entire state of Utah.

But people love eating cows, chickens and other animals that grow fat on alfalfa and grasses. And it's not just our hamburgers and chicken nuggets on the line. Milk, cheese, butter and ice cream are all made possible, in part, by Colorado River water.



> 'They're building their commerce on the backs of ours. Why are we being called selfish for wanting the same thing?'
>
> — TREVOR TAGG, farmer

INTERSTATE 8, top, cuts through El Centro. Above, technician Junior Lopez performs maintenance on solar panel systems at Arevon's Mt. Signal photovoltaic field south of El Centro.

"If alfalfa goes away, then large swaths of the dairy industry go away," Tagg says.

Actually, at least some production would probably shift to rainier parts of the country, climate experts say. But local farmers warn that food prices could rise.

As Tagg drives toward the border, we pass a solar farm on land owned by relatives on his mother's side of the family. He's got practical reasons for wishing it had never been built, including loss of agricultural jobs, lower tax revenues and questions about who will clean up all those photovoltaic panels a few decades down the line. But his resentment also is deeply personal.

"I was farming that ranch. It's where I invented this whole retail business that I've been running," he says.

"It's none of my business," he adds, his voice bitter. "It's just, I'm related to my mom."

Other growers have learned to love solar.

Eddie Wiest hails from a settler family that moved to Imperial just after 1900 and began cultivating cotton, dates, asparagus and more. That history hasn't stopped him from striking several land deals with Avantus, one of the biggest solar developers in town.

The economics of solar, Wiest says, are only a little better than farming, at least in his case. But Colorado River water supplies are more uncertain than ever, and some of Wiest's soil isn't the highest quality. Diversification appeals to him.

"Times change," he says. "A lot of people resist change."

It may be easier for Wiest to accept that fundamental truth because he no longer lives in Imperial. He recently moved to Texas, following his daughter and grandkids.

But many locals have seen the same economic logic. Already, Imperial produces more solar energy than all but two of California's 58 counties. Landownership records for the 17,500 acres that have been converted to solar — less than 4% of the valley's irrigated acreage — include plenty of names belonging to prominent local families.

About a mile from the border, Tagg pulls up to a 280-acre patch of ground where he grows Bermuda grass. He ruefully calls this place "the island." It's sur-

[See **Repowering,** A11]

[**Repowering,** from A10]

rounded by solar on all sides — an oasis of green swimming in a sea of black solar-panel waves.

A few blocks farther south, Colorado River water flows through the All-American Canal, whose concrete channel snakes along the U.S.-Mexico border wall. It's just before 9 a.m. and nearing 100 degrees.

On a morning like this one, it's painfully clear why more solar is needed to confront the climate crisis — and fast. This kind of brutal heat is increasingly common, and increasingly deadly. The water running through the canal is increasingly scarce, and increasingly coveted by the West's great cities. The only way to stop the downward climate spiral is to burn less coal, oil and natural gas.

Tagg refuses to accept the science of global warming. But he knows the Colorado is in crisis. And he knows he and other farmers have a crucial role to play in saving Lake Mead, because agriculture is the biggest draw on the reservoir.

"We understand that we have our responsibilities," he says.

Other growers feel the same responsibility. But they harbor a profound mistrust for distant cities that keep adding people even as water supplies decline. Especially when those population centers look to farm country for water to fuel their growth.

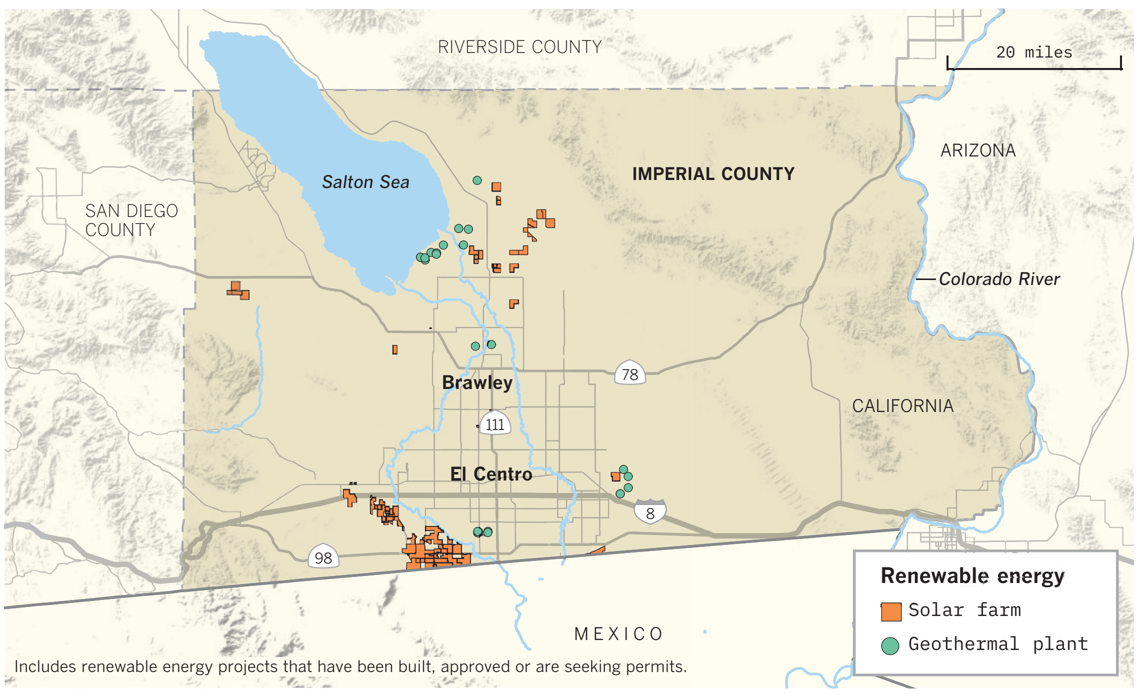
"They're building their commerce on the backs of ours," Tagg says. "Why are we being called selfish for wanting the same thing?"

The city officials angling for more of Imperial's precious water would never dare call Tagg and his compatriots selfish — at least not to their faces. But they might point out that across the Colorado River Basin, farms use 80% of the water used by humans. Almost half of that farm water goes to alfalfa. And some of the alfalfa is shipped overseas.

Growers in Imperial and other Western farm belts say they have good reason to stick with the water-intensive feed crop. Alfalfa promotes healthy soil. It can survive dry times without its full water allotment. And alfalfa prices have soared to record highs the last few years. Even during a drought, Westerners want their beef, dairy and poultry.

The availability of those foods shouldn't change much if Tagg is forced to cut back. For all his talk of feeding the nation, he specializes in making hay to feed horses — including racehorses you might see at Santa Anita Park.

> 'Bringing in manufacturing, bringing diversification, is going to bring those salaries up.'
>
> — RAY CASTILLO, former Imperial County supervisor



Includes renewable energy projects that have been built, approved or are seeking permits.

Imperial County Planning & Development Services

PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

TRANSMISSION LINES run through Imperial Valley. Below, county Supervisor John Hawk, shown in his Holtville office, beat the incumbent in the November election. Hawk sees solar as a killer of farm jobs and points out that solar farms pay no property taxes.

②

JOBS AND THE POLITICS OF POWER

IT'S ANOTHER BLAZING HOT morning as trucks loaded with equipment rumble over a short bridge, crossing a blue-green canal that separates sandy brown desert from verdant farm fields. They're carrying supplies to a lithium-ion battery storage project that will help California avoid rolling blackouts on days when there's not enough electricity. Days like today.

Looking across the construction site, Imperial County Supervisor Ray Castillo sees progress.

"Out of 58 counties in California, we're considered the poorest, with the highest unemployment rate and the lowest median income," he says. "Bringing in manufacturing, bringing diversification, is going to bring those salaries up."

It sounds like a noble sentiment. But it's landed Castillo in a fight for his political life.

His challenger in the November election, a farmer named John Hawk, has hammered him for supporting an industry that critics say does little for the valley. They see Castillo as the solar industry's enabler, using his vote on the Board of Supervisors to approve solar projects that take farmland out of production and replace steady agricultural work with temporary construction jobs.

It's a reminder that climate solutions — no matter how badly they're needed, or even welcomed in theory — can create winners and losers.

In Imperial County, population 180,000, the winners include hundreds of union workers building the battery installation along Westside Main Canal.

The facility is being developed by Consolidated Edison of New York, and it's relatively noncontroversial. Like the solar project at Strahm's carrot graveyard, it's replacing fringe farm ground that hasn't been cultivated in years. It will connect to San Diego via two long-distance power lines and help the coastal region keep the lights on after dark, when solar panels stop generating.

Other Imperial Valley solar and storage projects supply Los Angeles County and the Bay Area. But none of the batteries are as big as this one, which could grow to 2,000 megawatts. That's nearly the size of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

"Everything that we grow, we ship out of county. Everything," Castillo says, as if anticipating the criticism. "We're doing the same thing here with solar. We're generating solar, and we're shipping it out of the valley."

The county supervisors are charged with approving or rejecting solar projects on private property. Over the last decade, they've signed off on nearly 24,000 acres of solar, mostly on agricultural land.

"I really think that we did the right thing," Castillo says. "Looking at the drought now, I'm even more convinced that we did the right thing. Arizona's getting cut 21% of their water use. Can you imagine if they cut 20% of this county's water?"

Supporters see Castillo's argument as eminently reasonable. His opponents are eager to tear it apart.

Castillo's challenger Hawk farms 3,000 acres in and around Holtville, the self-described Carrot Capital of the World. His office walls are decorated with dead animals, most of which he killed himself — including a rattlesnake.

His biggest problem with the solar industry, he says, is it's killing agricultural jobs. That harms field laborers and others who work at businesses that support crop production, including irrigation firms, tractor suppliers, tire shops and fertilizer sprayers.

Hawk is also frustrated that solar farms don't pay property taxes — an exemption recently extended by state lawmakers.

"It doesn't help our economy at all," he says. "They use our resources, our roads, our power — and then they're gone."

It's an argument likely to resonate with at least some farmworkers.

As the early-morning sun casts golden light on a lettuce field outside Holtville, a crew of 18 thins out the seedlings, using hoes to remove two out of every four tiny plants and make sure there's enough space for each to grow. It's careful, exacting work — and the foreman, Jose Valadez, worries there will be less of it as more solar projects get built.

"For some people it's OK, but not for us. Because they're taking away our acres," he says.

Mireya Martinez, who's part of a crew harvesting cauliflower outside El Centro, has similar concerns about what solar will mean for her. But she understands the industry's appeal. She knows people who have gone from picking crops to building solar projects — and she's considered making the jump herself.

"They pay more," she says in Spanish.

Most farmworkers aren't focused on the threat posed by solar, according to Xochitl Ludwig, who got her start packing spinach and other crops and is now a safety supervisor for Martinez's employer, the labor contractor Nature Joy Harvest. But just because other challenges feel more pressing doesn't make the solar threat any less real, she says.

"A lot of people will be unemployed," she says.

Castillo says he understands those concerns. But he notes that voluntary agreements with solar developers have yielded more than $30 million for county coffers over the last decade — money that officials have used to help reopen a beef processing plant, bringing back hundreds of jobs, and to support dozens of other causes. Although solar companies don't pay property taxes, they have paid close to $80 million overall in other taxes and fees, county officials estimate.

We stop at the construction site of a nearly finished solar farm being built by New York hedge fund D.E. Shaw, to supply power to Sacramento. Castillo chats up an engineer, asking if she lives in Imperial.

No such luck. She's from San Diego.

But she's staying in El Centro and spending money locally. And some of her co-workers do live here, although it's hard to know exactly how many. The pay is good, and union members get extensive training that can serve them across industries.

"Our community has really benefited from it tremendously," Castillo says.

Slowing the rise of global temperatures would also benefit the community tremendously. Imperial is already frighteningly hot, and getting hotter. Losing power during a heat wave can be deadly. So can picking crops beneath the summer sun.

When Castillo was a kid in the 1950s, he says, Imperial "was hot, but nothing like this."

"The nights would cool down to maybe in the 70s, whereas now it's in the 80s," he says. "Plus the summers are longer."

If voters share Castillo's concerns about the climate crisis, they don't show it on election day. Hawk wins a resounding victory.

[See **Repowering,** A12]

THE SOUTHERN edge of the Salton Sea, a massive desert lake sustained almost entirely by agricultural runoff containing pesticides, salt and other pollutants. But as growers apply less irrigation to fields, less water flows to the lake — and it's disappearing.

③

THE CITIES JUST KEEP COMING FOR WATER

[**Repowering**, from A11]

You wouldn't know there's a drought from visiting Imperial Dam. There's no bathtub ring like at Lake Mead, screaming at you about the dire state of Western water supplies. There are no long-lost canyons emerging as those supplies dry up, like at Lake Powell.

But this is where the magic happens. This is where Imperial Valley farmers reroute the mighty Colorado River.

Green cattail thickets line the shallow blue pool where the river backs up against the dam, a 31-foot-high concrete wall. Three cylindrical gates, each 80 feet long and built in the 1930s, move up and down throughout the day, allowing water to pass.

Unlike Mead or Powell, Imperial Dam doesn't provide much storage. Instead, it siphons the Colorado's flow into the All-American Canal, delivering five times as much water to Imperial as Los Angeles uses in a year — and 10 times as much as Nevada.

But if you think Imperial is obligated to help solve California's water and energy problems, you need to grapple with a difficult reality — that taking away even a portion of the valley's water could have harmful ripple effects.

Those consequences were set in motion by white settlers more than a century ago.

Starting in the late 1800s, the California Development Co. staked claims to about half the Colorado River's flow, more than 7 million acre-feet. The company began digging canals to serve the few thousand settlers willing to brave the Imperial desert.

As the region blossomed into an agricultural kingdom — and thirsty cities grew up across the West — local farmers adopted a "siege mentality," according to Kevin Kelley, a former Imperial Irrigation District general manager. Water became "their security blanket and their shared preoccupation," Kelley writes in a new book, published after his death in 2021.

"It is the only cause they will instinctively take up as a bloc to repel the latest external threat," he writes. "And when they don't have a bogeyman to fend off, it is the wellspring of all their intrigues and infighting."

The infighting reached a fever pitch two decades ago, at the start of the megadrought still plaguing the West. Federal officials were threatening to slash Imperial's Colorado River supply if it didn't agree to sell large amounts of water to San Diego County. Some growers wanted to refuse, and defend their senior water rights in court. Others thought compromise was the safe bet.

The irrigation district ultimately approved the water transfer. But the wounds from that battle never fully healed. And they help explain why so many Imperial landowners react so poorly to the idea of solar farms covering up parts of their valley.

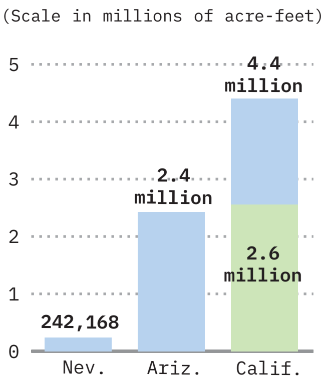
After the water transfer was approved, many farmers felt betrayed — by their friends, their relatives, their elected officials. But they assumed they had done their part to quench the thirst of coastal cities. Their remaining water was safe.

That's not how it played out. The planet kept heating. The snowpack in the Rockies kept shrinking. The cities kept growing.

And now Imperial Valley farmers are once again being warned of dire consequences if they don't give up more water.

Imperial's water footprint

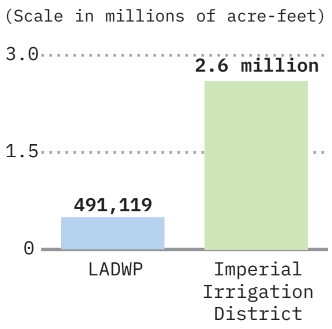
The Imperial Irrigation District used **2.6 million acre-feet** of Colorado River water in 2021.



Bureau of Reclamation

Consumption comparison

Overall water used by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power compared with Colorado River water used by the Imperial Irrigation District in 2021.



California State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Reclamation

Paul Duginski Los Angeles Times

Many of them feel certain the same thing will happen with solar. If they allow more land to be taken out of production, L.A. and San Diego and other urban powerhouses will keep coming back for more, until their valley is a pale imitation of its former self.

"Where would I develop that trust to know that there would be an endgame somewhere?" Tagg asked.

There's another reason Imperial's leading citizens don't trust their big-city counterparts: For decades, those urban power brokers have failed to live up to promises to restore the Salton Sea.

If Imperial Dam is the proud wellspring of the valley's agricultural bounty, the Salton Sea is its much-abused dumping grounds.

The massive desert lake, formed in the early 1900s by flooding on the Colorado River, is sustained almost entirely by agricultural runoff — runoff infused with pesticides, salt and other pollutants, but still the lake's only significant source of water. It flows from Imperial farm fields into 1,450 miles of drainage ditches that ultimately lead to the sparkling oasis.

Here's the problem: With global warming and big cities prompting Imperial to use less water — and solar projects replacing farm fields — the Salton Sea is disappearing. The less water growers apply to their fields, the less water flows into the lake.

After years of cutbacks, the dried-up lake bed is like something out of dystopian science fiction. Parched polygons of cracked dirt stretch toward a thin blue water line on the horizon. A rotten-egg stench wafts from the shoreline.

The smell isn't the worst part. As the water retreats, intense winds bombard the dry lake bed, stirring up dust particles laced with pesticides and heavy metals. The particles blow south, further fouling the air breathed by low-income Latino communities. Imperial County children are rushed to the emergency room for asthma attacks at a higher rate than anywhere else in the state.

Wildlife is suffering too. The Salton Sea has become vital habitat for hundreds of species of migratory birds, one of the few places in the California desert where they can stop to drink and snack. Bird and fish populations are crashing.

State and federal agencies have known for decades that a public health and ecological disaster was brewing at the Salton Sea. But until recently, they'd done relatively little to stop the bleeding, despite Imperial's increasingly desperate pleas.

For Imperial to use less water and produce more solar, it will need help preventing further damage to the Salton Sea as farm runoff declines. It will need state and federal officials to deliver on hundreds of millions of dollars in promised funding, and use that money to build long-delayed projects to restore habitat and suppress dust.

"We can't be on the hook for that responsibility of saving everybody else's hide, and taking the consequences," says J.B. Hamby, a board member at the Imperial Irrigation District.

It's in the best interest of the West's big cities to help the Imperial Valley thrive. And it's in the valley's best interest to protect the Colorado River. Lake Mead is trending toward "dead pool," the point at which water can no longer pass through Hoover Dam. If that happens, it won't matter how senior Imperial's water rights are. They'll be as screwed as anyone.

"Everybody needs to do their part. That includes us," Hamby says.

Like many farmers, Hamby doesn't think Imperial's part should include putting solar panels on farmland.

But if it doesn't, the West's climate crisis will likely get worse. Imperial Dam could become an even lonelier place.

CABBAGE IS harvested in Imperial. Almost anywhere solar and wind developers try to build, they face opposition, which can include farmers, conservationists or even off-road enthusiasts.

④

SO WHO'S WILLING TO GIVE UP LAND?

We meet up with Jack Vessey on the first morning of September, at a solar farm not far from the border. The fourth-generation grower is barely out of his car when he starts with the colorful commentary: "This is some sad s— right here."

Vessey's family had farmed this land since the 1950s, churning out lettuce, broccoli and cantaloupes. It was one of the family's top-producing ranches.

But when Vessey tried to renew the lease in 2016, the owners told him they'd be handing the keys to a solar developer instead.

He was stunned. His company farms 10,000 acres, so losing this 175-acre plot was no big deal. But the loss felt personal.

"I remember coming here since I can remember, 3, 4 years old with my dad," Vessey says. "And then it was gone."

Vessey says he's not anti-solar. He'd just like to see it built in other places.

"The American public gets more out of eating a cantaloupe than sitting here looking at a solar field," he says.

Other growers make the same argument: There's lots of undeveloped land in Imperial County, on either side of the irrigated valley. If faraway cities and the Biden administration want renewable energy, put it out in the desert. Don't force it on us.

If only the choice were so simple.

Lots of solar projects have been built on undeveloped land in the West — but often over the objections of conservationists worried about harm to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep and other animals that have already

[See **Repowering,** A13]

[**Repowering,** from A12]

seen much of their habitat destroyed. To those activists, putting solar on farmland is far superior to tearing up undisturbed wildlands.

So is that what it comes down to? We can stop climate change, but only by diminishing farming or destroying the natural world?

A recent study by the nonprofit Nature Conservancy painted a hopeful picture, finding that the West can zero out climate pollution without putting solar panels or wind turbines on the most valuable wildlife habitat — or on federally designated "prime farmland." With careful planning, the authors concluded, damage to agriculture and the environment can be limited.

But again, it's not so simple. Almost anywhere solar and wind energy developers try to build, they face opposition. Sometimes the critics are farmers or conservationists. Other times they're small-town residents who love wide-open spaces, or off-roaders seeking to protect their favorite vehicle routes. Sometimes the criticism is fueled by misinformation or climate denial.

And even in a best-case scenario, huge amounts of land will be needed. The Nature Conservancy study found that phasing out fossil fuels across 11 Western states could require dedicating an area half the size of Utah to solar, wind and more.

Solar industry veteran Shannon Eddy, who runs a trade group in California, knows better than almost anyone how hard it can be to overcome local opposition and get new projects approved. Asked to discuss Imperial, she sounds weary.

"We need to have a rational conversation about where these projects go, while we're factoring in housing, while we're factoring in water, while we're factoring in the need to grow food," she says. "These aren't easy conversations to have. Especially when we have to build so much renewable energy in such a short period of time."

And especially when it's your community being reshaped by solar or wind power. Because as much as some urbanites like to tell rural folk that clean energy is good for them — that they need the jobs, that their water is disappearing, that we'll all boil to death if we don't confront the climate crisis — rational conversation is tough when it feels like your way of life is at stake.

Vessey says he's tried to convince his three kids not to follow in his footsteps, much like his own dad tried to steer him away from farming. But despite his fears for the future, he loves life on the ranch, for its challenges as much as anything.

BIRDS FLY in formation over the Imperial Valley at sunset, top. Above, farmers Jack Vessey, left, and Danny Robinson on the bank of a dry irrigation ditch running along a solar farm.

"Every day is different," he says, his voice full of energy. "We're battling something every day. We're changing crops, we've got bug pressures, we've got political pressures. It's always a battle, it's always a game."

Asking farmers like Vessey to reimagine their livelihoods for the sake of a global emergency may not be fair. But the same is true for coal miners, loggers, autoworkers and many other professions. The consequences of fossil fuel combustion are so dangerous, and escalating so quickly, that scientists say we've got no choice.

In the West, balancing the clean energy revolution with competing demands on the land will be messy at best. Some ecosystems will be bulldozed. Some gorgeous views will be irrevocably altered. And some farmers will find themselves out of luck.

There will be more scenes like the one that played out at an Imperial County supervisors meeting in 2016, when Vessey showed up with several boxes of cantaloupes. They were some of the last crops he'd harvested from the ground he lost to solar power.

"Please, really think about what you're doing to this ground," he urged the board.

Will the county supervisors keep approving new solar projects on farmland, especially with Hawk replacing Castillo? It's tough to say. But they'll certainly have the opportunity. Enough landowners have been willing to strike solar deals that few developers have even tried building on federal lands in the desert, where the environmental review process can take years.

Even Vessey might be willing to take the renewable energy plunge, if the circumstances were right. Asked if he'd consider a good offer from a solar developer — for farmland that isn't his best — he doesn't hesitate to say yes.

"Business decision," he says. "If it fits, and it's right for us at the time, possibly. Never say never, right?"

⑤

SEEMS THERE'S ALWAYS A 'BUT'

Unlike most farming regions targeted by solar or wind developers, Imperial's got another renewable energy trick up its sleeve.

Or rather, deep beneath its surface.

Thousands of feet below the ground at the edge of the Salton Sea, salty water trapped in fractured rock formations is warmed to spectacular temperatures by heat from the Earth's core. For decades, companies have drilled down into the reservoir, bringing up steam strong enough to turn turbines and generate geothermal electricity.

It's climate-friendly and pollution-free — and there's a lot more of it yet to be tapped.

As the sun begins to set on another 110-degree day, we navigate rough dirt roads to reach a cluster of tanks, pipelines and other hulking equipment casting long shadows on the desert floor. Jim Turner is waiting for us, ready to explain why General Motors invested millions of dollars in his company.

"We had a lot of meetings with them," he says. "They finally got comfortable that they knew what we were doing."

What Turner's doing is preparing to build the area's first new geothermal plant in a decade — and also produce lithium, a key ingredient in electric vehicle batteries. The piping-hot underground fluid contains huge amounts of the valuable metal.

Turner's employer, Controlled Thermal Resources, is one of several companies hurrying to build lithium plants here to supply car companies. It's a mad dash that's brought international attention to Imperial.

Environmental justice activists are eager to ensure that lithium and geothermal actually benefit low-income communities of color. But unlike with solar farms, there's not much outright opposition. Local officials dream of a "Lithium Valley" economic renaissance that creates jobs and tax revenues without taking crops out of production.

It's not yet clear whether the dream will materialize. The salty underground water corrodes equipment. Tapping it is expensive.

But Turner is optimistic. He says the wells Controlled Thermal has drilled are working better than expected.

"And in a couple of years when it's all built, we'll be able to actually show people," he says.

> 'Solar's great because it's much less expensive, but it only works part of the day.'
>
> — Jim Turner, of Controlled Thermal Resources, which is working to build a geothermal plant and also produce lithium, a key ingredient in EV batteries

IMPERIAL DAM manager David Escobar, top, stands where Colorado River water is diverted to the Imperial Valley and Mexico. Above, a geothermal power plant operates near the Salton Sea.

There's another climate benefit to geothermal power plants: They can generate electricity at all hours of the day and night. That includes sizzling evenings like the one we're spending with Turner, who keeps wiping sweat from his brow.

"Solar's great because it's much less expensive, but it only works part of the day," he says.

Here's the thing about clean energy: There's almost always a "but."

Solar panels don't work at night. Wind turbines kill birds. Nuclear reactors leave behind radioactive waste.

Geothermal is no silver bullet, either. Even if companies like Turner's wring out every last bit of underground juice, in Imperial and elsewhere, it won't provide nearly enough power to end the nation's reliance on fossil fuels.

There are no easy answers. No solutions that come free of cost. And for Imperial, no escaping the reality that some sacrifices are inevitable on a planet being reshaped by climate calamity.

"Before it became the Imperial Valley, it was God's Country, and that was because only God would have it," Kelley writes.

Now everyone wants a piece of this heating, drying, dust-choked place. But for Imperial and other farm belts to supply food, water and clean energy — and help Los Angeles, San Diego and Phoenix survive the 21st century — prosperity has to flow both ways.

WATCH THE VIDEO:
Scan the code with your phone for the second episode of "Repowering the West," as Times energy reporter Sammy Roth explores how solar development is affecting farmers who supply the bulk of the nation's winter vegetables.

What to know about water-damaged rides

[**Vehicles,** from A1]
will be risky buys.

Kenneth Potiker, owner of Riteway Auto Dismantlers, knows what advice he'd give to people considering the purchase of such a vehicle.

"I would tell them not to buy a car like that — that would be the best advice," said Potiker, whose San Bernardino company sells used auto parts. "If it floods inside a car, water damage is one of the worst types of damage."

Many flooded vehicles will be totaled by insurance companies — this is generally done when the cost of the necessary repair work is equal to or more than the value of the vehicle. These cars will be retitled via the California Department of Motor Vehicles with "salvage" or "junk" designations, which alert consumers to their past damage or other issues.

Then, a large number will be unloaded at auctions conducted by companies such as Copart and Insurance Auto Auctions, based in Dallas and Westchester, Ill., respectively.

A host of bidders will compete for the drowned derelicts — some of whom may have less than honest intentions for the reselling of the rides. And that matters, because cars that have sustained water damage could be perilously unsafe, both physically and technologically, even if they don't look that way, said Drury, director of insights for Edmunds.

"No. 1, your electrical system: You've got so much electronics on a car, now more so than ever. Technology systems prevent you from getting into an accident, and now you are in more danger," he said. "And there's the vehicle physically deteriorating over time."

Salgu Wissmath San Francisco Chronicle

VEHICLES SIT STUCK in a flooded underpass in Oakland. The recent rainstorms generated the sort of inundation that can wreak havoc on automobiles.

> 'We are seeing these flooded cars show up all around the country, putting unsuspecting buyers at risk.'
>
> — Emilie Voss,
> a spokeswoman for the vehicle data firm Carfax

After Hurricane Ian's devastating assault on Florida and neighboring states in September, Carfax, the vehicle data firm, warned consumers of the risks of buying used cars with water damage. The company also estimated that flooding brought on by the hurricane may have damaged as many as 358,000 vehicles.

"We are seeing these flooded cars show up all around the country, putting unsuspecting buyers at risk," Emilie Voss, a spokeswoman for Carfax, said in a statement in October. "Cosmetically these cars might look great, but if you don't know what to look for, it's nearly impossible to tell they are literally rotting from the inside out."

Before the hurricane, Carfax estimated that in 2022 there were about 400,000 vehicles on the road with flood damage in their history, Voss said in a statement to The Times.

An eclectic group of buyers are likely to compete for vehicles damaged in California's January storms. Many cars will be acquired at auction by entrepreneurs and shipped overseas, where they could be resold. Some will be purchased by dealers who will recondition them and sell them as used cars. There are those that will be purchased by private-party buyers, who are able to bid at certain auctions. And others will be bought by dismantling operations that will strip the vehicles for parts and resell their usable remnants.

Potiker is one such businessman, and he expects to see the flooded cars popping up at auctions in about a month. But he does not plan to be a major bidder.

"I'll buy a few, I'm sure — but I stay away from a lot," he said, explaining that it can be difficult to tell the extent of damage before bidding. There's also competition from bidders with overseas interests who will often pay more than he's willing to bid.

Racer Yoemans has a similar perspective. He's president of salvage-parts data software company Bid-Call, which is headquartered in Seguin, Texas, and he also deals used parts.

"To be perfectly honest with you," he said, "I don't buy flood vehicles."

Yet another twist

The introduction of thousands of additional vehicles into California's used car marketplace would be yet another twist during a strange stretch for the industry.

Used car prices soared during the first two-plus years of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a once-in-a-generation set of circumstances turbocharged the business. The 2020 collapse of the rental car market during the early part of the pandemic, major production issues in the new automobile arena and droves of buyers flush with stimulus checks turned the used car economy upside down, leading to inventory shortages that sent prices soaring.

Although the business has stabilized in recent months — prices started to drop around last fall — a deluge of formerly flooded autos could be a welcome occurrence for dealers who endured scant inventory in recent years.

It is legal to sell a vehicle with a "salvage" or "junk" title — as long as the damage is disclosed. And the major auction companies provide prospective bidders with detailed information about their offerings.

Take Insurance Auto Auctions, which operates a global online marketplace for the sale of total-loss, damaged and low-value vehicles. The company, which auctions cars on behalf of its clients — among them insurance and rental car companies — discloses particulars that would be crucial to a potential buyer. Its online listings lay out details such as a car's title status, mileage, driveability and the type of damage it has incurred. They also include several photographs and a 360-degree image.

Nonetheless, merchants who specialize in the purchase and resale of flooded cars often take big risks that come with potentially big profit margins. Meanwhile, consumers might be enticed by these cars, which usually come with surprisingly low prices. Flood-damaged cars can typically be purchased at a 40% to 70% discount on Kelley Blue Book valuations, Drury said.

The slew of rides set to hit the auction blocks could present shady operators with a major opportunity, experts said. According to Potiker, the reason is simple: "People can fix them and no one would know. That's the way it works."

Drury said that water damage is a vexing issue because it can be hard to discern. A totaled car from this month's flood might have endured a day or two fully submerged in water, so that every component was saturated — or it could have only had its interior ruined due to a faulty sunroof seal.

"It varies wildly between what is truly destroyed and something that is salvageable," he said. "That's where you really have to have someone you trust if you're looking to purchase one."

Buyer beware

To avoid purchasing a badly flood-damaged car, there are several things that consumers can do to inoculate themselves from a disastrous acquisition from a dealer or private party.

First, experts said, would-be buyers should consult a service such as Carfax to check an auto's history; such products will show the status of a car's title and could include other pertinent information.

"Bad guys [are] counting on people not doing that," Drury said. "Sometimes buyers keep their blinders on and just say, 'I want it.' "

When considering the purchase of a vehicle from a private party, experts recommend paying to have it professionally inspected. Drury called such an inspection, which would detect water damage, "a must." Forgoing one means a buyer should be prepared to get their hands dirty trying to replicate the process.

"If you are going to do it yourself, you ... [should] see if there is rust, funny smells or dirt in places it shouldn't be," Drury said. "Are there water lines in the carpet? That goes for seat cushions, too. If anything electrical seems off — and everything else looks OK — you could have issues there."

In the end, with used car dealers, Drury said, there's a hope that they will operate ethically.

"There are sellers who specialize in salvage-title vehicles, and hopefully they have a list of things they've done to bring it up to driving status," he said.

Still, Drury said consumers need to take caution when considering the purchase of any used car that has been registered in a city or state where there has been flooding. This, he said, makes those vehicles "suspect."

That, of course, now includes Los Angeles — and California.

Staff writer Russ Mitchell contributed to this report.

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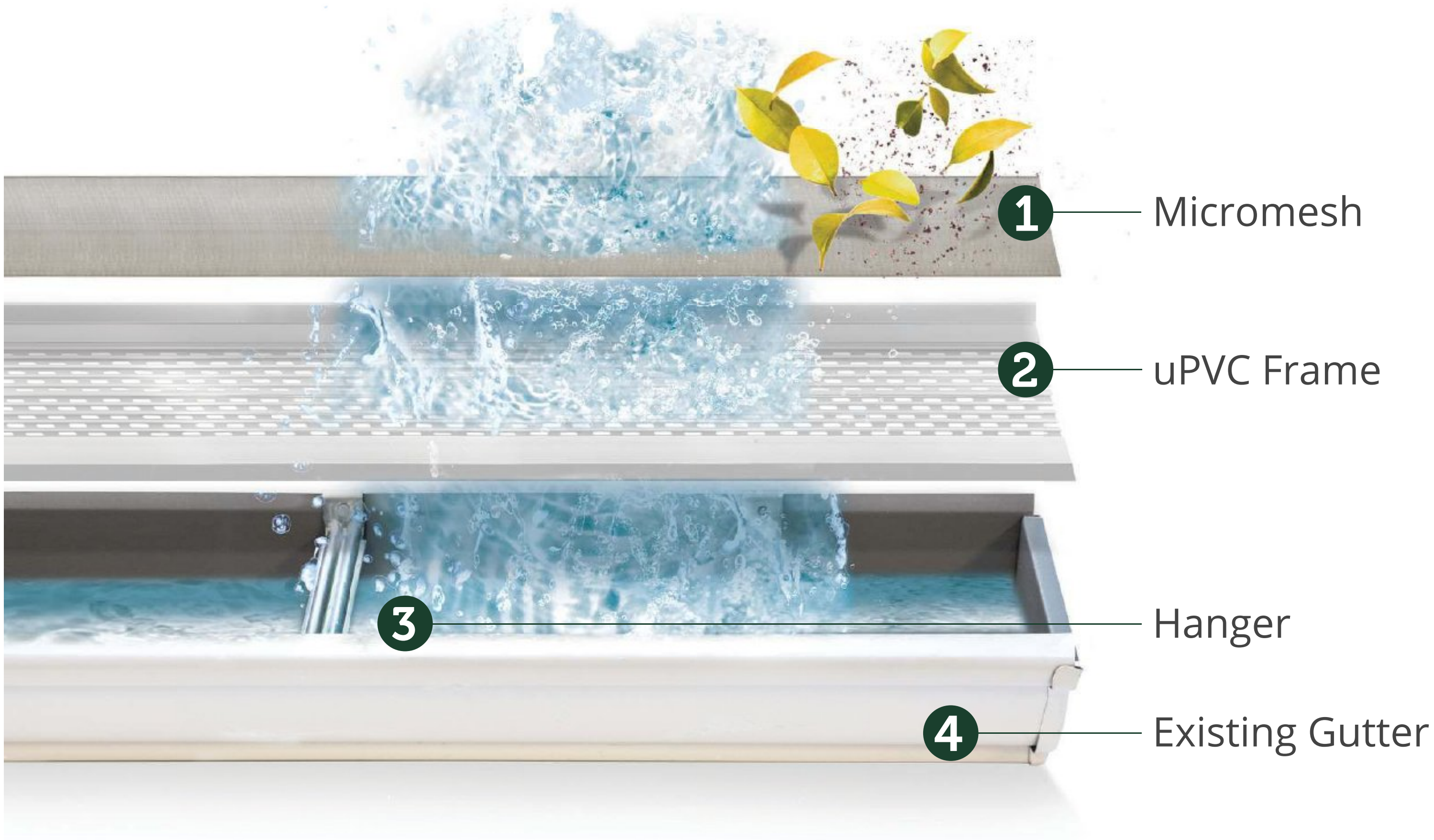
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BUSINESS

Lacking child care and ‘trying to stay afloat’

The pandemic highlighted — and worsened — the plight of working parents. Here’s how some have coped.

By Samantha Masunaga

Nearly three years after the pandemic began, parents are still feeling a financial squeeze because of child care.

In December, 51,000 parents had to miss work because of child-care problems. That’s an improvement over October’s record high when 104,000 parents missed work, but it’s still greater than pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total employment for women with children under age 18 was at 24.7 million in November, an increase of about 199,000 compared with November 2019. But the unemployment rate for women with children under age 6 was 3.8% in November, slightly higher than the 3.6% recorded in November 2019.

Missed work — and even more serious ramifications, such as parents dropping out of the workforce or reducing their hours — has severe financial consequences for families.

Nationwide, parents lost a total of $8.3 billion in wages due to inadequate child care, according to a 2016 study. For businesses, that means lost productivity and absenteeism cost them $1,150 per working parent each year — and those figures were calculated before the pandemic, said Anna Powell, senior research and policy associate at the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment.

COVID-19 then exacerbated the child-care industry’s problems. Caring for young children is expensive and labor costs make up a large portion of providers’ budgets.

Many parents can’t afford the cost. Providers then can’t raise rates much higher than minimum wage without a stable and external source of funding, meaning child-care workers’ wages are low. That leads to high turnover and a shortage of workers.

The pandemic accelerated the exodus of child-care workers from the industry, a steady drip, drip, drip from which the industry has not yet fully recovered.

Child-care employment is still down almost 10% relative to pre-COVID-19 levels, said Jessica Brown, an assistant professor of economics at the University of South Carolina who focuses on the economics of the child-care market.

“We see that employment overall in other industries has, on average, fully recovered, but in the child-care industry, we’re still down,” she said.

The lack of availability and affordability has forced many parents, especially mothers, to put their own careers on hold or reduce their hours. But how can you balance that with household expenses?

The Times interviewed parents about how child-care issues have affected their work and what they’ve had to do to adjust. Here are three personal stories.

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

SOFIA TAVITIAN took an unpaid leave from her job teaching third-graders at LAUSD to care for her daughter, Luna Tavitian-Monterrosa. To save on rent, they now live with Tavitian’s father in her childhood home.

‘More than half of my ... paycheck’

Sofia Tavitian loved her job teaching third-graders.

But as the so-called tripledemic of COVID-19, flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, ravaged schools and day-care centers during the fall, she grew nervous about sending her then-4-month-old daughter to day care once her maternity leave ended. Hiring a nanny was out of the question.

“It would have been more than half of my monthly paycheck,” said Tavitian, 33, who teaches in the Los Angeles Unified School District. “That was just not realistic.”

The single mom decided that if anyone was going to care for her daughter at that young age, she wanted it to be her. In November, she took an unpaid leave of absence from her job at LAUSD until August. By then, her daughter will be more than a year old, and Tavitian said she’d feel more comfortable sending her to day care or enrolling her in preschool.

“Financially, it was just better because I would save that money doing the job I knew I wanted,” she said.

The decision has come with financial consequences. Tavitian was briefly uninsured when she went on her leave of absence before signing up for Medi-Cal. She also moved back into her childhood home, where she lives with her father.

“If I had to pay rent, I don’t know what on Earth I would have done,” said Tavitian, who lives in Eagle Rock. “It’s really easy to say, ‘Just put your kid in day care or put your kid in child care’ ... but it takes a toll on us.”

‘Financially, it’s been hard’

Lily Marquez has put her career on hold twice because of child-care issues.

The first time was about six years ago, when she quit her 10-year career as a university financial aid administrator to become a stay-at-home mom and care for her then-newborn daughter and young son since she couldn’t find anyone to take care of two babies. At that time, child care cost more than her condo mortgage in Alameda County, she said.

She later returned to the workforce and was employed as an in-home caregiver for an elderly woman until about a year ago, when her daughter was sent home from school because of a COVID-19 exposure on campus. With no other child-care options available, Marquez had to take her daughter to work with her at her patient’s home.

The woman was in her 90s with respiratory issues and required 24-hour care. Although Marquez needed the income, she decided to quit rather than expose her patient to COVID-19.

“I can’t do this to you,” Marquez, 41, remembers telling her patient. “I don’t want for you to get exposed because I know it’s detrimental. I’m sorry.”

During this time, she also separated from her husband and moved from San Francisco to Contra Costa County to be near family. Her children changed schools and her daughter’s new kindergarten class is in session from 8 to 11:30 a.m., making it hard for her to find work. Unlike in San Francisco, after-school programs are not as available or affordable.

All of her nearby family members work, limiting their ability to help with child care. She said she hopes it will be easier once her daughter goes into first grade and has a longer school day.

“Financially, it’s been hard over here,” Marquez said. “I’m trying to stay afloat. It’s been difficult.”

‘I’m sure we’ll make it work’

Roger Chong built a thriving home services business during the pandemic.

In a major change from his previous careers in airline entertainment and production management for reality TV shows such as “Fear Factor” and “Wipeout,” Chong now installs home furnishings, mounts TVs and builds furniture.

It keeps him closer to home than his reality TV jobs — something that was especially important after he and his wife welcomed their first child in November 2020. And he made more money working for himself than he ever did when he was on a company’s payroll, Chong said.

But after his wife’s roughly six-month maternity leave ended, “things were getting a lot rockier,” Chong said.

The cheapest child care they could find was $500 a week, part-time and limited to children who were potty-trained. Their 2-year-old son is not, so his fee would be higher. Chong and his wife occasionally get help with child care from family, but not on a consistent basis.

“We’d pretty much be working to pay for child care,” said Chong, 38, who lives in Carson. “We’re pretty much in a rip curl of making money to spend money.”

His wife’s full-time job as a nurse provides the family with health benefits and a stable income, so Chong changed his work schedule to fit hers. He had to cut down his work availability from as many as six days a week to two or three. Sometimes he’s gone up to two weeks without being able to work. And since his availability is limited, it can be hard to schedule future jobs when customers want their TVs mounted sooner than three weeks out.

To supplement his income, Chong drives for DoorDash or UberEats at night after his son is asleep and can make about $400 to $500 a week. Sometimes he’ll drive until 4 a.m., but other days, he’s too tired to go out.

Maybe more options will be available after his son is potty-trained, Chong mused. The last-resort plan is to wait until his son is 5 and goes to kindergarten, and then Chong could go back to his business full time.

“We made it work for two, two and a half years now,” he said. “I’m sure we’ll make it work for another two years.”

Day-care ventures are getting more investor attention

By Samantha Masunaga

Before the pandemic, many venture capitalists weren’t convinced that child care was a worthwhile investment.

Is this really a problem? they’d ask founders in the industry. *Aren’t people figuring it out?*

“It was frustrating as parents who were experiencing the problem firsthand to hear that feedback,” Melanie Wolff, co-founder of Playa Vista child-care startup Brella, said of early conversations with investors.

Then the pandemic laid bare all of the shortfalls of the child-care industry. That’s when investors took notice. In 2022, Brella raised a $5-million seed round, bringing its total venture funding to $8 million.

Wolff and her co-founder and co-chief executive, Darien Williams, say they have seen significantly more inbound inquiries in the last year from investors actively looking to fund child-care companies — and they’re not the only ones.

Last year, child-care startups raked in almost $108 million in venture capital funding, a 128% increase compared with 2019 and the highest total in 10 years, according to PitchBook data. The increase for child care came in stark contrast to last year’s overall decline in venture funding.

Despite the new influx of money and interest, researchers and industry insiders alike say more needs to be done from all angles to truly wrangle the problems of the child-care industry.

Brella

CHILDREN PLAY at a Brella child-care center. The Playa Vista startup is one of several that have benefited from increased venture capital interest in the niche.

“Government will absolutely need to make this a priority,” said Shadiah Sigala, co-founder and chief executive of San Francisco-based child-care startup Kinside. “Employers must also be present at the table, as they are stakeholders. We have to collectively accept that child care is a public good and we will be funding it as a society.”

The pandemic forced employers to see child care as a core benefit, rather than a perk. Front-line workers couldn’t do their jobs unless they had child care. Women dropped out of the workforce in droves as child-care issues forced them to put their own careers on hold.

From March 2020 to June 2022, more than 8,600 child-care providers in California permanently closed, according to data released in November by the state Department of Social Services.

“Just like healthcare is an employer issue, so is child care,” said Jessica Chang, chief executive of Los Angeles-based startup WeeCare. “If I want a good workforce, well, what is the biggest blocker for a workforce to be there? It’s generally child care.”

Founded in 2017, WeeCare is a marketplace that connects parents with home day-care providers. The company has more than 6,000 providers in its nationwide network, as well as an additional 60,000 nannies and baby-sitters, Chang said. The company also provides home day cares with the back-end technology to run their business operations.

WeeCare changed its business model during the pandemic to focus on employers instead of individual families.

“Affordability was still a big crisis,” Chang said. “We couldn’t just depend on families to pay for that or providers to cut costs to allow families to do that. And that was made apparent that both employers and government had to be involved.”

In April, WeeCare raised $12 million in a Series A round. Anna Barber, a partner at M13, which led the round, said the venture capital firm was attracted to the “massive market opportunity.”

“When you think about how big of a problem this is, and the fact that employers are now motivated and willing to help provide child care, that’s just a massive and exciting market,” she said.

Sigala of Kinside also sees employer participation as one of the keys to fixing the child-care system. The company is a marketplace that matches families with child-care providers and is marketed specifically to employers as a benefit for their workers. For a fee, child-care providers get access to software for their back office.

Kinside has worked with thousands of employers across the country and more than 10,000 families, Sigala said. The startup closed a $12-million Series A funding round in June, led by investors who are also parents.

“The employer benefits from having a healthy child-care ecosystem,” she said. “The child-care ecosystem ... is in a precarious state constantly. They have very, very thin margins ... the child-care provider can barely make a living wage. There is a huge imbalance in the value chain here.”

Startup Brella is trying to solve another facet of the child-care industry — flexibility.

Founded in 2019, the company owns two child-care centers in Playa Vista and Hollywood, with a third under construction in Pasadena.

Under Brella’s business model, parents can sign up for the hours of care they need and utilize any of the centers. The company’s technology also highlights open spaces in centers so that parents can get drop-in child care when they need it.

“Not all families fit into this working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., working Monday to Friday model,” said Wolff, the company’s co-chief executive. “The pandemic really accelerated this shift of dynamic work styles.”

Child-care researchers say these innovations are important, but the widespread demand for child care necessitates more than just private sector dollars.

“You have this huge, huge challenge, and it makes sense the private sector is engaging,” said Julie Kashen, director for women’s economic justice at the progressive Century Foundation think tank. “To me, it’s a drop in the bucket, as to the need, and the need really needs to be filled by public dollars.”

MONEY TALK

Baby gift idea: A 529 college account

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: Recently my granddaughter gave birth to twins. I'd like to put $500 into a trust for each to mature when they are 18. I'm hesitant to set up an education fund in case they decide not to go on to college. I would like something that includes growth and safety, the least amount of cost and minimal tax consequences. Is there something you could recommend?

Answer: Consider 529 college savings plans, which provide the benefits you're seeking, including some flexibility in how the money is spent.

The money you contribute can be invested to grow tax-deferred. Withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, which include costs at vocational and technical schools. Up to $10,000 per year can be used for private school tuition for kindergarten through 12th grade.

If a beneficiary doesn't use the money, the balance can be transferred to a close relative. As the account owner, you can withdraw the money any time. You would pay taxes on earnings, plus a 10% penalty.

Legislation passed last year offers another option: Money that's not needed for education can be transferred to a Roth IRA, starting in 2024. After an account has been open at least 15 years, the beneficiary can start rolling money into a Roth. The amount can't exceed the annual contribution limit, which is $6,500 this year, and the lifetime limit for rollovers is $35,000.

These plans are offered by the states and operated by various investment companies. You can learn more at *collegesavings.org*.

Checking survivor benefit eligibility

Dear Liz: I was widowed at 44, when my children were 10 and 12. I received Social Security benefits for myself and for them. I then went back to work. I started taking Social Security at 65 even though I continued working until 70. I hear a lot about widows' benefits and wonder whether I would be eligible. I need the funds.

Answer: Call Social Security at (800) 772-1213 and ask whether your survivor benefit, based on your husband's work record, is greater than the benefit you're receiving. If it is, you'll get the larger of the two benefits, rather than both. If it's not, you'll continue to get your own benefit.

You qualified for survivor benefits because you were caring for a deceased worker's children. Your benefit probably ended when the younger child turned 16, although the children could have received checks until they turned 18 or graduated from high school, whichever occurred later.

Otherwise, survivor benefits are typically available at age 60, although the amount available is reduced if you start benefits before your own full retirement age, which used to be 65 but is currently between 66 and 67. Also, benefits started before full retirement age are subject to the earnings test, which withholds $1 for every $2 earned over a certain amount, which is $21,240 this year.

When you applied for Social Security at 65, the agency may have compared the benefit you earned on your own record with the survivor benefit you were eligible for based on your late husband's record, and given you the larger of the two. If not, ask them to make the comparison now and see if you'd be better off.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Pay transparency is changing how you seek jobs and raises

By Hal M. Bundrick

Knowing if you're being paid fairly for the work you do is a mystery shrouded in a lack of information. That may be changing, though, and pay transparency may be the catalyst.

It's a growing trend for companies to reveal what a job opening or current position pays — whether voluntarily or because governments mandate it.

Salary ranges might be required by state

About a dozen states and municipalities have mandated access to salary information, including California, Colorado, Washington and New York City.

Companies in the jurisdictions are generally required to post salary ranges indicating the minimum and maximum pay. Rules vary: Sometimes only job applicants must be told; other times, employees can also request information about their pay range.

In California, where the pay transparency law went into effect Jan. 1, employers with 15 or more workers must reveal salary ranges to workers and list them on job postings. Failure to comply can bring fines as high as $10,000 for each violation.

Roberta Matuson, president of Matuson Consulting in Boston, consults with companies looking for top-tier talent. She said pay transparency "is a step in the right direction."

"Knowledge is power," she said. "If you have no idea that you can possibly earn more money, then you wouldn't even ask for it."

'Just turn the question around'

Pay transparency won't eliminate salary negotiation, said Lexi Clarke of Payscale, a national provider of compensation data and services. Instead, she said, it will spark discussions of pay expectations.

It will help employees and candidates "understand what their expectations should be, and where [salary] boundaries are and where there might be flexibility. It levels the playing field between employers and candidates to have a more open and transparent conversation," she said.

Lulu Seikaly, a senior corporate attorney with Payscale, noted that as laws stand, employers could offer pay higher than a range that is posted for a position, as long as the company can provide objective reasoning for the exception. In the past, companies would often base offers on what a person earned in prior jobs, Seikaly said. "A lot of states have banned that now."

If a potential employer asks for your salary history, Matuson said, "I wouldn't refuse to answer; I would say, 'Well, tell me what you're offering for this position.' I would just turn the question around."

Too early to say if pay gap will be fixed

Pay transparency reveals salary ranges, but does it narrow gender and ethnicity pay gaps? It may be too early to tell.

However, Clarke said organizations that are more open about salaries often have a well-defined compensation structure and are less likely to have pay inequities.

She predicted how the gender pay gap might narrow: "Women's salaries will increase to where they should be — some overpaid men's salaries may slightly decrease, to be more in line with where they should be."

What if my pay is on the lower end?

If you find out you're at the lower end of a salary band, Clarke said pay transparency will help you communicate with an employer about what you think you deserve, "and you're anchoring that all into data, which is really powerful," she said.

Matuson advised asking your employer how you can add more value and what skills you need to increase your pay and opportunities for promotion.

And if you're at the top of the pay scale?

What if you find out you're at the top of your job's pay band? One result could be pay compression at the top of a pay scale, with the highest-paid workers facing increasing resistance about salary hikes. Should you worry that you're maxed out and might be among the first employees to be cut?

"Well, I think you should always be thinking, 'I might be cut,' " Matuson said. But she adds that even if you're not actively looking for a job, call a few headhunters to determine pay scales for your current work and potential opportunities.

If you're trying to determine a salary, several websites offer tools that help you see a relevant range of pay. Check out Payscale, Indeed, Glassdoor and Salary.com for such tools.

Bundrick is a writer at personal finance website NerdWallet. This article was distributed by the Associated Press.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

L.A. doesn't need a visionary czar to solve its water woes. It's already on it

It may not seem like it, but the region is building a system to capture rainfall, albeit slowly.

THE RECENT onslaught of storms and the backdrop of relentless drought might make Los Angeles residents wish we had an old-school water czar to tap distant rivers. But the days of having William Mulholland single-mindedly create a system to quench Los Angeles' perpetual thirst are long gone. We don't need them back.

Still, as Los Angeles residents watched the winter storms drench the region with billions of gallons of water — most of which rushed, unused, to the Pacific — it's natural to wonder why our water systems don't capture that water to use when we need it.

We don't have a Mulholland-like water czar to ram through projects to contain stormwater, recycle wastewater and desalinate ocean water — nor would that be workable.

What we have is Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program and its chain of scoring committees, watershed steering committees, oversight committees, advocacy committees, consultants and, of course, politicians. (Mulholland's contempt for committees and bureaucrats led to his insufficiently reviewed design for the St. Francis Dam, which collapsed in 1928, killing more than 400 people, a consequence of having authority vested in one person.)

And despite what seems like a bureaucratic process, the program is doing its job, and doing it well. Rather than being the weakness in L.A.'s modern approach to water projects, the complex of committees, review and consensus-building is actually quite ingenious. The time the process takes, from proposal to completed water-capture project, pales in comparison with the time that otherwise would be sucked up by lawsuits brought by parties with a legitimate interest in the outcome but no seat at the table.

Adopted by voters in 2018 as Los Angeles County Measure W, the program is building a network of small, local rainwater- and runoff-retention projects, anchored by several larger catch basins that together will increase by at least a third the amount of water that seeps into groundwater basins. No surface reservoir could hold as much as underground aquifers can.

Measure W created a parcel tax on impermeable surfaces, and the money is accessible to cities and agencies if they work together to achieve multiple goals, including increased green space and water storage. Before the Clean Safe Water Program, no city had any incentive to collect, clean or store water, but they did have looming, unaffordable fines from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for polluting urban runoff. The program satisfies the pollution liability, and as almost a side benefit it encourages stormwater capture.

Taken together with city and county recycling projects (currently in the preliminary stages), the region has the most advanced and forward-looking water resilience program in the nation. Northern California cities and counties have nothing like it, even on paper.

All of this should be as much a source of pride to Angelenos as a new aqueduct or reservoir. The participants in L.A.'s water capture programs can do a better job of getting the word out. Our need for water in the face of climate change and depleted distant sources is urgent. But we're on it.

Things are different in the northern part of the state, which also has drought and flood challenges but has to actually increase its rivers' flows to the ocean in order to sustain migratory species and keep the environment healthy. At the same time, Northern California needs to capture, store and recycle water. So far, it has nothing to match L.A.'s investments in such projects.

All that said, L.A. could use more vision and leadership in its water resiliency program. Each project that clears the various review hurdles is a modest piece of a puzzle — one that itself could be larger. Efforts and funding from county measures for homelessness, parks and transit could be better coordinated to conserve water as they transform Los Angeles County into a greener and more equitable network of communities.

A program to remove blacktop on school playgrounds could be leveraged with water and parks funds into a project that brings the community a catch basin and spreading ground for rainwater during a storm.

There are opportunities to broaden the approach. This year, the Board of Supervisors is required to begin its first biennial assessment of the Safe Clean Water Program and make adjustments. It should begin that process sooner in the year rather than later, and position it as part of a more sweeping and integrated program to make Los Angeles a livable, abundant, just, green and resilient place beyond even Mulholland's dreams.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER flows through Atwater Village after a rainstorm on Jan. 9.

The pay-to-play culture of L.A. City Hall

The Huizar corruption case may be over, but the system that allowed it remains.

FINALLY, FORMER Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar has admitted he was the leader of a criminal enterprise in City Hall that extorted from developers to get rich and maintain his political power.

On Friday, Huizar pleaded guilty to racketeering and tax evasion rather than face trial next month, and he is facing a prison sentence of between nine and 13 years. His deal with prosecutors comes after developers were convicted in two earlier trials, and after an aide, political consultants and lobbyists pleaded guilty to felony charges for their involvement in the scheme.

In the agreement with federal prosecutors filed last week, Huizar acknowledged the ugly truth about how vulnerable the city's land-use approval is to corruption. Council members wield tremendous power over development decisions worth millions of dollars, and they can use that influence to extract from developers public benefits, such as funding for a park, or to benefit themselves in the form of campaign contributions.

Huizar used his power as the council member representing a booming downtown and as chair of the council's land-use committee to pressure developers for cash, campaign contributions, casino chips, flights on private jets, prostitutes and other gifts worth a total of $1.5 million. In exchange, Huizar helped their projects and businesses.

For example, Huizar admitted helping one developer, in exchange for political contributions, win approval for a 35-story tower in the Arts District with fewer affordable housing units than the Planning Commission required.

Huizar's case may be the extreme example of how this culture breeds corruption, but the city's dysfunctional development system and political power dynamics have long undermined progress and public trust. Los Angeles city leaders cannot put the Huizar scandal behind them until they reform the systems that allowed his corruption in the first place.

Take, for example, how Huizar came to represent downtown. Los Angeles has a redistricting commission to draw political districts, but it's largely controlled by City Council members, who have used that power to reward their allies and hurt their enemies. In 2011, then-council President Herb Wesson oversaw a redistricting process that stripped a development-rich section of downtown from an adversary, then-Councilmember Jan Perry, and gave it to Huizar, his "best friend" on the council.

Good-government groups, the Times editorial board and most city leaders now support establishing an independent redistricting commission. Though it won't eliminate corruption, it would ensure that politicians aren't drawing district lines to serve their own interests, which can reduce the risk of corruption.

The city also has to overhaul its development rules to remove political influence. In fact, federal authorities said Huizar's scheme to shake down developers was enabled by L.A.'s convoluted and highly political approval process. As long as council members retain unchecked authority over land-use decisions in their districts, the entire process is tainted. Developers need to curry favor. Neighbors are distrustful. And decisions are allowed to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis behind closed doors, without a guarantee that the result will be in the best interest of the community and the city.

Huizar's plea deal shouldn't be the end of the story. The pay-to-play corruption scandal will continue to hang over Los Angeles until leaders fix the systems and culture that enabled him.

LETTERS

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

A MAN rides an electric bicycle on the San Onofre State Beach Trail south of San Clemente on Jan. 12.

'Mayhem'? Hardly

Re "E-bikes bring 'mayhem' to O.C.," Jan. 16

The only thing the recent popularity of electric bikes has brought to coastal Orange County is the ugly truth about our chronic lack of bicycle infrastructure. The solution to our current "backlash of safety complaints" is quite simple: Invest in quality bicycle infrastructure.

While this article focuses almost exclusively on residents' complaints and the "challenges" for local governments, it largely ignores the most obvious of solutions. If cyclists are to ride somewhere other than multi-use paths and sidewalks, they need to be provided with a safe alternative.

The "e-bike revolution" is an opportunity. A simple investment in quality bicycle infrastructure would help to reduce congestion, air pollution and noise. Please don't blow it, Orange County.

STEVE SHEPHERD, Huntington Beach

As an 80-year-old, I take walks on beach paths that were once relaxing and inspiring but now require constant vigilance to avoid being struck by one of these fast-moving, nearly silent e-bikes.

Last October, Fortune magazine covered the "e-bike backlash" and named Carlsbad in San Diego County as a problem locale. I forwarded the article to the Dana Point City Council and Orange County Parks with a plea that something be done, and heard nothing in return.

On two occasions I was nearly struck by young e-bikers. These machines are in effect small motorcycles that invite excessive speed. It's time to act.

GLENN PASCALL
Dana Point

::

I live in a beach community, where there are tons of electric bikes. I was glad to see some details on accidents, as I constantly wonder why more people are not injured.

I had to laugh out loud at this paragraph: "Although electric bicycles have been around for years, their popularity swelled during the pandemic, when gyms were shut down and people were looking for alternative forms of exercise and recreation."

Could the writer please enlighten me as to what "exercise" these battery-powered bicycles provide?

GLORIA SMALL
Hermosa Beach

Unwanted kids and abortion

Re "After 50 years, abortion rights are set back to zero," Opinion, Jan. 19

The most important thought in Nicholas Goldberg's column on the 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade is that "children should be born to parents who want them and can care for them."

Forgotten in all the arguments over abortion is the plight of unwanted children. Each of us who once felt disposable or like garbage has tales to tell. If we survive, those stories become hidden under a guise of normalcy. Nobody is ever interested in hearing our unique stories.

Regardless of what else a survivor is able to accomplish in life, there is no "delete" button to conveniently erase past horrors and memories. My grandparents saved my life. I was one of the lucky ones.

The first step in ensuring that there are fewer unwanted children is to guarantee each woman the right to control all decisions about her own reproductive system.

If the antiabortion folks truly believed in the sanctity of life, they would pay attention to the quality of life that unwanted children must endure. So far, children have been the forgotten component in all the arguments about abortion. That needs to be remedied.

BETTY ROME
Culver City

::

I laughed when I read Goldberg's complaint that antiabortion activists "tried to humanize the so-called unborn."

While the unborn could be called a zygote, a fetus and even a baby, there is no doubt that it is precisely human during all those stages. It may be unwanted, but from the first moment it has all the markers needed to make it part of the human race.

It's a pro-choice strategy to dehumanize the unborn with euphemisms so that the snuffing out of a growing person can be made more palatable.

EDUARDO DELGADO
Moorpark

CEQA and People's Park

Re "Decades later, People's Park once again the site of a fight," Jan. 13

People's Park in Berkeley, with its storied past, is no typical park. It's also not a typical CEQA case.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires decision makers to evaluate and mitigate environmental harms when making major land-use decisions. In a state this large and diverse, with a law of such wide applicability, we're bound to see a few outlier cases.

For decades, CEQA has been extremely effective at improving development projects and minimizing their environmental harms. CEQA is the reason why new industrial development must consider the public health harms to adjacent communities, and why new communities must incorporate solar panels and electric vehicle chargers.

Thanks to CEQA, we have preserved the Santa Monica Mountains, Mono Lake and key wildlife habitat across the state. Whatever becomes of People's Park, let's not use it as the reason to throw the baby out with the bathwater and eliminate the core environmental protections that have made California an enviable place to live.

HALLIE KUTAK
Los Angeles

The author is an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

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I felt better about ChatGPT after spending quality time with it

ROBIN ABCARIAN

I MEAN, WHAT was I expecting from a chatbot? A formula for world peace? Clues on how to mend a broken heart? A cheesy joke?

Sure, all that, why not?

I wasn't expecting it, however, to blow me off, to tell me it was too busy for me. And that it would get in touch later by email, when it was free.

But that's how it goes with ChatGPT, the amazingly lifelike program that rolled out in November and has promptly been deluged with curious users — more than a million, according to its San Francisco-based creator, OpenAI. It has been called "quite simply, the best artificial intelligence chatbot ever released to the general public." No wonder it's been crashing from overuse.

With most technologies, I am hardly an early adopter. I have absolutely no urge to use the first iteration of anything. But so many AI stories have swirled around the media sphere, including how AI is going to replace journalists, that it seemed irresponsible not to plunge in.

After all, panic seems to be one of the most predictable human responses to any important technological advance.

The Atlantic predicted that in the next five years, AI will reduce employment opportunities for college-educated workers. (Actually, ChatGPT predicted that outcome after the Atlantic prompted it to address the issue.)

The New York Times recently had a story about how chatbots like ChatGPT are writing entire papers for undergrads, forcing universities to change how they assign work. So far, The Times reported, more than 6,000 teachers from institutions including Harvard, Yale and the University of Rhode Island have signed up to use GPTZero, a program developed by a Princeton University senior to detect artificial-intelligence-generated text.

On the less gloomy front, NPR aired a story about a woman who uses a chatbot app as her therapist when she's feeling depressed. "It's not a person, but it makes you feel like it's a person," she told NPR, "because it's asking you all the right questions."

A day later, my friend Drex forwarded a video about the latest evolution of Atlas, the Boston Dynamics humanoid robot that has captivated viewers with its uncanny dance and parkour moves. Atlas can now run, jump, grab and throw. The new video shows Atlas handing a worker on a scaffold the tool bag he left on the ground.

"So this is how it will end for us humans," Drex lamented. Nah. I happen to believe less in the robots-will-kill-us theory of the apocalypse and more in the humans-will-blow-ourselves-up theory, so I am not unduly worried about bots that can write term papers, bring us our tool bags or dance.

I asked the most sophisticated chatbot ever released to write me a symphony and compose a letter to my ex

But AI can certainly run amok. (See: Tesla autonomous car crashes.)

CNET, the popular tech website, had to amend dozens of its news stories after admitting it was using bots to write them. The bots were error prone, miscalculating basic things like compounded interest. Futurism, the website that discovered the ruse, was less charitable: "CNET is now letting an AI write articles for its site. The problem? It's kind of a moron." CNET claimed the bots were an experiment.

Anyway, when ChatGPT was not too busy to talk to me, we were able to spend some quality time together. I asked serious questions based on some of my recent columns, such as "Are religious beliefs more important than academic freedom?" "Has Prince Harry been disloyal to his family?" "Will Ukraine win the war?" ChatGPT's answers varied from wishy-washy to sensitive:

"In some cases, religious beliefs may be considered more important than academic freedom, while in other cases, the opposite may be true."

"Whether or not someone considers Prince Harry to have been disloyal is a matter of personal perspective and opinions."

"It is not appropriate to predict the outcome of a war, as it is not only difficult to predict but also disrespectful to the people who are affected by it."

ChatGPT, the latter part of which stands for generative pre-trained transformer, was straightforward about its limitations. It could tell me what a symphony is, but it could not compose one. It was also a little oversteppy. When I asked it to compose a letter to someone who broke my heart, it did, but it warned: "It's also important to consider the person who broke your heart's feelings and whether contacting them is the best course of action for you." Who asked you?

Less serious questions got decent, if boilerplate, answers: A good plot for a novel, ChatGPT suggested, would be about a young woman who inherits a mansion and discovers a secret room with the journal of a young woman who lived in the house a century earlier and was embroiled in a forbidden love affair. The protagonist becomes obsessed with the journal and the secrets it reveals about her own family. "Along the way, she must face her own demons and confront the truth about herself," ChatGPT advised.

Unlike Google, which is apparently getting very nervous about this new competitor, ChatGPT remembers your conversations, so when I asked if the plot it had suggested was taken from a real novel, it knew what I was talking about it and said it was not.

I also indulged in nonsense.

"How much does Czechoslovakia weigh?" I wondered. ("As it is a former country and not a physical object, it does not have a weight.")

"To be or not to be?" (Hamlet, said ChatGPT, "is weighing the pros and cons of life, and considering whether it would be better to end his life or continue living and dealing with his troubles.")

And — how could I not? — I asked if it knew any dirty jokes.

"Some types of jokes, including dirty jokes, can be considered offensive or disrespectful to certain individuals or groups and it's important to be mindful of that before sharing any type of joke." How uptight.

It did, however, offer a bunch of Dad jokes: "Why was the math book sad? Because it had so many problems." "Why was the computer cold? Because it left all its windows open."

My final request to ChatGPT was to see if it could edit the opening lines of three recent columns to make them better.

I am happy to report that in my entirely subjective, all-too-human opinion, it made no edits that improved my copy, and in fact, made it clunkier.

You ain't putting me out of a job yet, robot.

@AbcarianLAT

SHMUEL THALER Santa Cruz Sentinel

THE SAN LORENZO RIVER, swollen by rain, flooded Santa Cruz earlier this month. Adapting to such new extremes is urgent.

One big climate fight our state is losing

Reducing carbon emissions is not enough at this point. We need to minimize harm from the fires and floods that can no longer be prevented.

By Michael W. Beck

IT HAS BEEN demoralizing to witness in Santa Cruz, my hometown, the destructive power of waves and water on our beaches, piers, roads, homes, businesses, rivers and levees. But we knew this was coming, and we're overdue to adapt to the new realities of our climate.

In 2015, global leaders resolved to cut carbon emissions in an effort to keep the planet from heating more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. California has played a significant role in that campaign, with world-leading policies and innovations on technologies such as solar power and electric vehicles and in the development of carbon markets, which reduce emissions through caps and tradeable credits. All of this has been aimed at averting a future climate challenge. That challenge is here now.

Mitigation must continue, but adaptation has become urgent as well. California should step up once again.

It's not enough to invest just in strategies to protect future people, property and nature. The risk of climate change to people here and now has become quite clear. It's clear in California's historic drought, epic fires and the recent deluge. It's clear nationally in the supersizing of hurricanes such as Sandy, Dorian, Michael and Ian. It is also clear in the increasing costs of storms. In 2017, Harvey, Irma and Maria caused an unprecedented $300 billion in damages.

Recovering from climate-fueled disasters will take an ever-greater bite out of national and local budgets. The United Nations lauds countries' mitigation commitments, but finds an ever-widening "adaptation gap" between what is spent, around $29 billion annually, and what is needed, around $71 billion a year now and $340 billion in 2030. For many developing countries, particularly island nations, falling behind on adaptation is an existential crisis.

Californians have done a lot to contribute to this crisis. Among U.S. states, we rank second only to Texas in total carbon dioxide emissions.

So we should help solve this adaptation crisis — as innovators and leaders.

First, that means experimenting with more solutions to adapt to climate change across the state, innovations that we can export elsewhere. This responsibility falls not only to the state government but also to cities, counties, nonprofits, businesses and academia. Many states and countries are already doing more than California has, especially when it comes to nature-based solutions such as the restoration of wetlands and reefs. The U.S. government is ahead as well. For example, the Department of Defense is working on oyster and coral reef restoration to help defend military bases against erosion and flooding.

California can't afford to lag behind in the race to adapt to existing climate dangers. Catastrophic collapses along our open coasts this month are a reminder that we must greatly expand efforts to reduce risks on our coastlines. For example, we should be working with our rocky reefs to reduce wave energy, erosion and flooding. Enhancing the height and roughness of rocky habitats in shallow nearshore waters could provide risk reduction and conservation benefits and reduce investments in artificial armoring, which has no habitat value. Innovations here could be replicated along rocky coasts worldwide.

Second, California should lead in the development of an adaptation marketplace. California helped build carbon markets, and we need the same leadership for an adaptation marketplace that gives benefits and credits for reducing present climate risks to people, property and nature.

One key step will be to measure risk and the benefits of adaptation solutions, and then we must price them. We already know how to price risk; that's the basis for the insurance industry. With a little prodding, the risk industry could do more to measure adaptation benefits.

We also need incentives or government requirements to advance adaptation projects. Such incentives are already emerging from the private sector. Companies are increasingly being pushed by investors to report on the risks of climate change to their balance sheets, which has led to voluntary compliance with reporting developed by the business-led Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

Starting this year, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is requiring companies to disclose financial impacts of climate-related risks. As businesses increasingly report on risks, they will have more incentives to look for actions to reduce exposure and harm.

Governments already have plenty of incentives given the costs of recovery after disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that funding spent ahead of time to reduce hazards provides a 6-to-1 return on investment.

It makes sense for businesses and governments to get out in front with voluntary adaptation commitments. At the U.N. climate conference in Egypt last November, one of the few points of agreement was that developed nations will increasingly have to take responsibility for the losses and damages that climate change is already driving in developing nations.

California is likely to soon become the world's fourth-largest economy, and we reap many benefits from that. Californians have also been willing to take ownership of problems we have helped create. We must continue to lead on cutting carbon emissions to protect the future, and we must develop the same leadership on climate adaptation — because Californians and vulnerable nations need those protections now.

MICHAEL W. BECK is a professor and the director of the Center for Coastal Climate Resilience at UC Santa Cruz.

We Won't Go Back!
ABORTION ON DEMAND & WITHOUT APOLOGY
OVERTURN ROE? HELL NO!

JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

ACTIVISTS outside the Supreme Court in June, after justices ended constitutional protections for abortion.

What will abortion access in the U.S. look like in 50 years?

Five decades ago when Roe vs. Wade legalized the right to choose, few would have predicted the upheaval we're living through now

By Mary Ziegler

TODAY IS THE 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, one quite unlike any that came before it. For one, this year's annual March for Life protest gathering of the antiabortion movement will end not at the U.S. Supreme Court but somewhere between there and Congress. That's by design: The Supreme Court last summer already eliminated the abortion right recognized in Roe; elected officials and judges will shape the rules going forward. Without question, a new chapter in the American abortion conflict has begun.

Since the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling that struck down Roe, it's been an era of uncertainty and confusion. There are already abortion bans enforced in 13 states, but most conservative legislatures have not been in session since the Supreme Court decision in June. Already, lawmakers in states like Texas and Missouri have proposed measures designed to make it harder to travel for abortion or to get abortion pills in the mail — some of them targeting people in progressive states whose actions are protected where they live. Others are aiming at corporations that reimburse their employees for abortion-related travel out of state.

It's not clear whether these bills, if they pass, would be constitutional — or even which state's courts will get to decide. What is obvious is that patients are the ones left to make sense of an ever-changing set of rules.

In blue states, residents have to compete with out-of-state patients for scarcer and scarcer appointments. In states with laws that severely restrict or ban abortions, patients committed to ending a pregnancy face daunting travel distances or order pills online, all without any guarantee that they will be protected from punishment. The Alabama attorney general's office recently claimed that women who take abortion pills could be prosecuted under the state's chemical endangerment law.

With California at the forefront, progressive states have gone on the offensive, proposing shield laws designed to protect those who perform abortions and help others seeking them. But no one knows whether the protections available under these laws will hold up when conservative courts take a look.

Antiabortion groups have plans to circumvent laws such as Proposition 1, the state constitutional amendment that Californians overwhelmingly endorsed in November. Some hope that a Republican will win the race for the White House in 2024 and will then overhaul the federal Food and Drug Administration, making abortion pills harder to get or taking them off the market.

In the meantime, similar arguments are being raised before conservative judges by antiabortion groups. Other legal challenges to abortion pills rely on an obscure 19th century law still on the books, the Comstock Act, which bans mailing abortion pills. Although the courts for decades have interpreted the law narrowly, abortion foes are hoping that conservative federal judges will read it as a functional ban of all abortion pills.

With so much up in the air, what might the next 50 years of the American abortion debate hold? First, some of the most significant battles will unfold in places we're not used to paying much attention to. That state legislatures will be major players goes without saying. State supreme courts have already started to clarify whether their constitutions protect the right to an abortion.

Even clear-cut wins and losses will be subject to challenge: 38 state courts use elections as part of their process of selecting judges, and well-funded and organized campaigns will shape who sits (or remains) on each state's highest courts. Ballot initiatives will continue to be a major point of contest, especially after supporters of abortion rights went six for six in 2022 in these battles. Conservative states may respond by making it harder to get a ballot initiative before voters, or by making it harder to vote.

And the fights may expand beyond abortion. Some antiabortion groups are already targeting chemical contraceptives, arguing that they are no different from abortion pills — or that minors should need parental consent before obtaining them. Some conservative states may look at transforming the practice of in vitro fertilization, barring the disposal of unused embryos, for example. The more extreme these proposals become, the more robust a grassroots backlash we're likely to see — one that may surpass the mobilization that helped lead to the 1973 decision in Roe.

And speaking of Roe: The fight in federal courts over the right to an abortion is far from over, no matter what the current conservative supermajority would have us believe. In the near term, the conservative justices will probably weigh in on conflicts between the Biden administration and conservative states on issues such as access to abortion in cases of a threat to the patient's life. Later, the court may be tasked with exploring the constitutional limits of state efforts to limit travel or punish out-of-state conduct. Further along, antiabortion leaders are hoping the Supreme Court will recognize the personhood of the fetus and hold abortion to be unconstitutional across the country.

There may be no chance of reviving a federal right to abortion in the next few years, but there is no reason that supporters of abortion rights can't replicate the persistence the antiabortion movement showed in the aftermath of Roe. Efforts are already underway to rethink the right to choose abortion: as a matter of equality for women and others who can get pregnant, as a matter of tradition in a nation that committed to ending slavery and the compulsory childbearing of women of color, and as part of an agenda that includes not just being able to avoid pregnancy and parenthood but also the ability to seek out either safely and with dignity. If enough ballot initiatives succeed, it's even possible to imagine a less-polarized conversation — one in which voters' views on abortion rights can be separated from their partisan preferences.

Few could have predicted what the following 50 years would look like in January 1973 when Roe came down. The same is true today. But there is one thing we can be sure of: The fight for reproductive rights and justice is not about to end.

MARY ZIEGLER is the Martin Luther King Jr. professor at UC Davis School of Law and author of "Roe: The History of a National Obsession."

Skeletons in your closet? The GOP still wants you

Screening candidates was once a major role of parties, but recent scandals show that Republicans are not setting a high bar.

By Seth Masket

ROBERTO E. ROSALES Albuquerque Journal

ALBUQUERQUE police take Solomon Peña into custody Monday. Peña lost his election for a seat in the New Mexico state Legislature in November.

ON MONDAY, Albuquerque police arrested Solomon Peña, a failed 2022 Republican candidate for the New Mexico state Legislature, for allegedly orchestrating shootings at the homes of four Democratic elected officials.

OK, maybe there's no way the party could have known he'd do that when they nominated him, but the fact that Peña had previously been convicted of 19 felonies and served nearly seven years in prison might have suggested some problems down the road.

This comes amid an ongoing scandal over new Republican House member George Santos of New York, who has been found to have fabricated pretty much every aspect of his life that he presented to voters last year. The head of the Nassau County Republican Party, in Santos' district, has called on him to resign.

What do these stories have in common? They suggest a Republican Party that simply doesn't vet candidates for office anymore. Even cursory background checks or interviews would have revealed some problems with these candidates, but today's GOP doesn't seem to care. What happened?

Screening candidates is actually a major role that parties traditionally play. Often, parties do most of that work in competitive races, trying to focus on the candidates they think can win and pressuring out candidates they think will be less appealing.

In 2018, for example, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee played a strong role in shaping the party's nomination for the House seat in Colorado's 6th District, recruiting and advocating for Jason Crow to be nominated, and he went on to win the seat against a Republican incumbent.

This kind of calculation by formal party leaders is a pretty common thing. But in the Crow case, there is even audio of a conversation that Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.), then the House minority whip, representing the DCCC, had with Crow's primary challenger, Levi Tillemann, urging him to get out of the race. Hoyer's argument was that the party simply believed that Crow would have an easier time defeating the Republican incumbent, Rep. Mike Coffman. Tillemann refused to bow out, but lost to Crow in the primary. We'll never know how Tillemann would have done in the general election, but the party didn't want to take any chances.

And even when the general election doesn't look competitive, parties have often tried to discourage candidates who will hurt their brand and make them look bad. It wasn't that long ago that House Republican leaders pressured Rep. Steve King of Iowa to leave Congress; his racist outbursts were seen as damaging to the party's reputation.

While party influence may not always be so overt, the two parties have always been concerned about electability in general elections. But judging from the examples of Peña and Santos, the GOP is more than willing to leave that aside.

In fairness, it's not quite so simple as that. In numerous Senate races last year, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) spent his energies recruiting and endorsing candidates he thought were electable, but those candidates were often outgunned in the Republican primaries by those backed by former President Trump.

Trump made a point of backing candidates like Herschel Walker, Blake Masters and Mehmet Oz — people who were famous or wealthy or just said nice things publicly about Trump. Those candidates all underperformed in the midterm election.

Research by political scientists Rachel Porter and Sarah Treul makes clear that there have been some important recent changes in American politics. More inexperienced people are running for office — and winning more often in primaries than they used to, particularly among Republicans since 2016.

Two important factors have driven this change. One is specifically the candidacy of Trump. Prior to 2016, Republicans had been, like Democrats, concerned about candidate electability. GOP leaders rallied around presidential candidates John McCain in 2008 and Mitt Romney in 2012 over other popular, more conservative leaders precisely because they believed that those two candidates had a better shot at winning the general election.

Republicans broadly predicted a Trump candidacy would be poison to the whole party ticket, but then it wasn't. For many of them, the lesson was, if Trump could take the White House, any electability analysis was out the window. If Trump could win after everything he said and did in 2016, maybe others could too. And indeed, the party has been far more tolerant of candidates such as Lauren Boebert, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Matt Gaetz and others, who until recently would have been considered the unpalatable fringe.

A second factor is the influence of conservative media such as Fox News, which are a dominant source of political information for Republican primary voters. These outlets generally don't portray extremist Republican candidates as such; instead, they portray them as unfair victims of the "mainstream media" and turn their accusations and attacks on progressive Democrats. It's hard to punish a problematic candidate inside an echo chamber.

Still, Boebert won her "safe" western Colorado district by fewer than 600 votes in November, and many candidates who parroted Trump's lies and conspiracy theories did worse.

Could the poor midterm results cause the GOP to push back toward more candidate vetting?

Not necessarily. Among Kevin McCarthy's many concessions to Republican dissidents during his protracted effort to become House speaker was a pledge that the Congressional Leadership Fund — a large political action committee controlled by McCarthy — will not spend in future open primaries in "safe" GOP districts. This fund has been a major advocate of more moderate and electable candidates, spending a quarter of a billion dollars in the 2022 cycle, and now it will stand down. This move seems likely to produce *more* Boeberts, Gaetzes and Taylor Greenes, not fewer.

It's possible the Republican Party could once again become concerned about its reputation and want to avoid nominating serial liars and potential terrorists. But that's going to take work, and a lot of trends are already aiming it the other way.

SETH MASKET is a professor of political science and director of the Center on American Politics at the University of Denver.

De León's district turns against him

[**De León,** from A1]
eration chief Ron Herrera, who also took part in the meeting. Councilman Gil Cedillo, the third council member involved, has since left office, leaving De León as the only participant still serving.

De León has pleaded for forgiveness and argues that he does a good job representing his constituents, many of whom are undocumented and Spanish-speaking.

Yet voters across lines of race, ethnicity and geography showed little support for him in his Eastside district, which stretches from downtown Los Angeles and Boyle Heights to the gentrifying neighborhoods of Highland Park and Eagle Rock in the north. It also encompasses El Sereno and Lincoln Heights.

Among Latino voters, almost half said having De León on the council is "now more negative than positive for the Latino community," compared with about 3 in 10 who said it is "still more positive than negative."

"It's pretty clear," said Drew Lieberman, a pollster at Strategies 360, a national research firm that conducted the survey for The Times. "It's hard to reach any conclusion other than that the last few months have been a pretty difficult period for Kevin de León, and frankly, it constitutes a disqualifying set of events for him." He added, "Across demographics, across ideology, in this poll these voters have soured on him, and they're just sort of ready for him to go."

Latino voters, young voters and those without a college education were less likely than white, college-educated voters to view De León negatively, but he failed to get majority support from any demographic group, the poll found.

Nearly two-thirds of voters said they were paying very or somewhat close attention to news about the recording and its fallout, and it has clearly influenced their thinking.

Among those who said they've been following the coverage at least somewhat closely, two-thirds think De León should resign, and 7 in 10 think he should be recalled. Those who haven't been following closely are much more likely to say they're undecided.

Westley Garcia-Encines, 34, a downtown Los Angeles resident who was among the poll respondents and agreed to a follow-up interview, said De León should have resigned the moment the audio became public.

In the recording, De León accuses fellow Councilmember Mike Bonin of using his Black son as an accessory and compares Black political power in Los Angeles to the Wizard of Oz.

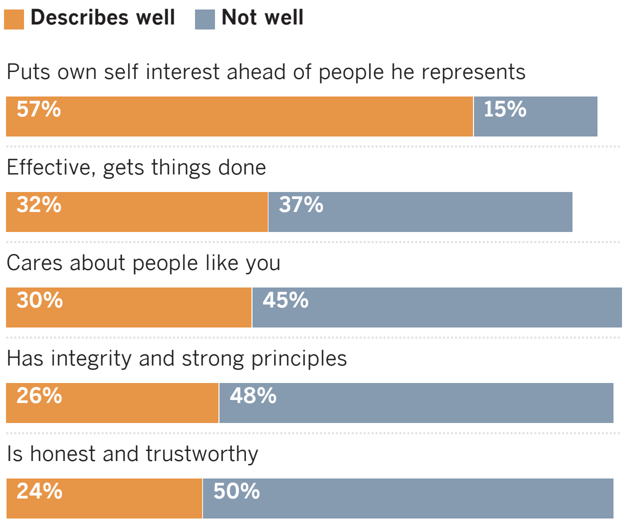
"Staying to work through the hurt that he has caused is not the answer," Garcia-Encines said. "It seems to me that it's more about his ego at this point, because his community has been calling [for] him to step down."

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

"STAYING to work through the hurt that he has caused is not the answer," a constituent said of Councilmember Kevin de León. Only 23% of voters who were surveyed approve of the job De León is doing.

Personal attributes

The poll gave voters a list of five personal attributes and asked if they describe De León well or not.



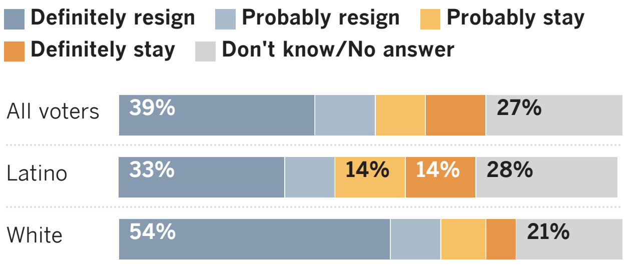
Survey of 400 registered voters conducted in English and Spanish, Jan. 10-16 using a combination of live cellphones, live landline phones and SMS-to-web interviews. Margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points for the full sample.

Strategies 360

DAVID LAUTER Los Angeles Times

Resign or stay in office?

A majority of voters in Kevin de León's council district say he should resign. Support for resignation was strongest among white voters but was shared by a plurality of Latino voters.



Survey of 400 registered voters conducted in English and Spanish, Jan. 10-16 using a combination of live cellphones, live landline phones and SMS-to-web interviews. Margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points for the full sample.

Strategies 360

DAVID LAUTER Los Angeles Times

Garcia-Encines, who supported De León when he ran for the U.S. Senate in 2018 and for the council, isn't alone in that sentiment.

When offered a list of five attributes and asked whether each described De León well, a majority of respondents said he put his self-interest ahead of those he represents. Just under a third of voters said he was effective and got things done.

Not all voters in the district have abandoned De León. He retains the support of about 2 in 10 voters, and, among Latinos, 3 in 10.

Vivian Vasquez, a poll respondent who lives in El Sereno, believes De León should finish out his term.

While she was disappointed with what the council members were caught saying, she said De León had not caused direct harm to the people he represents.

"I feel he's at least doing his job in leading the group he was elected to lead," said Vasquez, 41. "When I look at it in the grand scheme of the needs of the world, there's no harm in letting him stay and finish out his term and focus on the bigger needs of our society."

She said she dislikes the in-your-face style of protesters who have demanded De León's resignation, forcing several council sessions to shut down.

Sentiment against the protests was widespread among older voters. About half of voters 50 and older said the protests have "gone too far," compared with just over a third who say they have "generally been fair and peaceful." By contrast, voters younger than 50 said by more than 3 to 1 that the protests were fair and peaceful.

Unhappiness with the protests does not appear to have translated into support for De León, however: Older voters were more likely than younger ones to say he should resign, primarily because younger voters were more likely to say they were undecided.

While the protests have died down recently, De León's future is unclear. He remains politically isolated as the recall effort continues. In December, he got into a physical altercation with a protester during a toy giveaway.

If a recall were to make it onto the ballot, a majority of Latino voters would vote him out, as would an even larger share of white voters, the poll found. Latinos make up about half of the district's voters; whites make up about a quarter. Other ethnic groups were too small a portion of the sample to be analyzed separately.

Across racial and ethnic lines, only 20% of voters said they view De León favorably, with nearly half indicating that recent news has dimmed their view of him.

De León gets more support among moderates and conservatives than among liberals, who make up about half of the district's voters. Even among those smaller groups, however, more say he should resign than stay.

Voters' opinions about De León are significantly lower than their view of other political figures. Voters in the heavily Democratic district have a much more optimistic view of newly installed Mayor Karen Bass, for example, who once served in the state Assembly with De León.

A large majority of the district's voters, 54%-14%, have a favorable view of Bass, with the rest undecided or saying they don't know enough to have an opinion. Voters were split 35%-35% in their opinion of the City Council, where De León's colleagues are attempting to limit his power.

De León represents some of the poorest parts of the city, with a large immigrant population and high rates of renters. About 250,000 people live in the district.

> 'Across demographics, across ideology, in this poll these voters have soured on him, and they're just sort of ready for him to go.'
>
> — DREW LIEBERMAN, pollster at Strategies 360

He was elected in 2020, winning the primary that year with about 52% of the vote. Now, however, those who say they voted for him in that election are divided on whether he should stay or go: 43% say he should resign, 38% say he should stay, and the rest are uncertain. Voters who did not back him that year overwhelmingly think he should resign.

One group among whom De León fares especially badly is women with college degrees, who are in favor of him resigning and in favor of a recall by a margin of 3 to 1. And while voters across the district think he should resign or be recalled, the majority is largest in the northern parts of the district, which has the largest share of college-educated voters.

Marita Forney, an educator who lives with her wife, Evangeline Griego, in Eagle Rock, strongly disapproves of De León. Forney, who is white, voted for De León, but says she has been bothered by his air of arrogance and his suggestion that he is his district's only shot at representation.

"There's definitely more than one or 10 or 100 people who are qualified or capable," Forney said. "I'm sure there are sixth-graders in school in the district who can do a better job of representing us right now."

De León's presence is polarizing, she said, pitting his critics against Latinos in the district who previously supported him.

Griego, meanwhile, said she has found his office to be unresponsive to her concerns about homelessness and street cleanliness.

"Even before all of this, he was just not a very good council member," Griego said. She found his participation in the leaked conversation "deplorable" and believes he should resign.

"This idea he keeps saying he's there to serve his constituents — I don't know what constituents he says he's serving, but he's not serving me; he's not serving my neighbors," Griego said.

The poll of registered voters in Council District 14 was conducted in English and Spanish by phone and by SMS to web interviews. A complete description of the methodology, as well as the full questionnaire and top-line results, is available on the Strategies 360 website.

Violent protest erupts in Atlanta over killing of activist

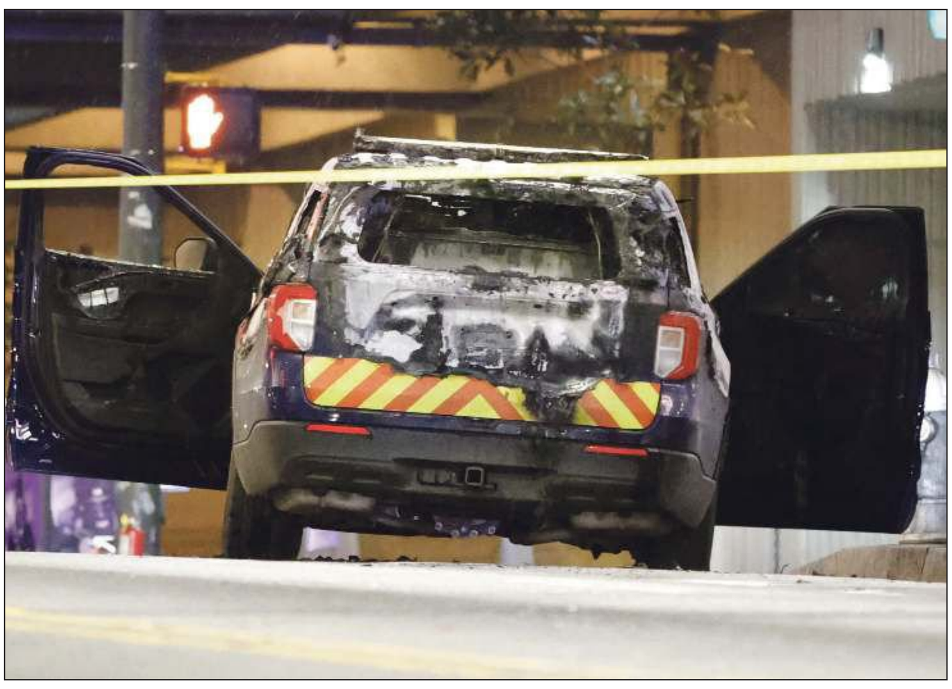
Police facility and car were damaged in the episode, which comes in the wake of a fatal shooting by officers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A protest turned violent Saturday night in downtown Atlanta in the wake of last week's killing by law enforcement officers of an environmental activist who had shot a state trooper, according to officials.

Masked protesters dressed in black threw rocks and lighted fireworks in front of a skyscraper that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation, shattering windows. They set a police cruiser on fire, smashed more windows and vandalized walls with anti-police graffiti as stunned tourists scattered.

The violent protesters were a subsection of hundreds who had gathered and marched up Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street to mourn the death of the 26-year-old, a nonbinary person who went by the name Tortuguita and used they/it pronouns. Tortuguita was killed Wednesday as authorities cleared a small group of protesters from the site of a planned public safety training center that activists have dubbed "Cop City."



ALEX SLITZ Associated Press

A POLICE CRUISER was set on fire Saturday in Atlanta. Hundreds protested officers' killing of an activist who had shot a state trooper, according to officials.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said Tortuguita was killed by officers after shooting and injuring a state trooper, but activists have questioned officials' version of the events, calling the killing a "murder" and demanding an independent investigation.

According to the GBI, the incident was not recorded on body cameras. The bureau said Friday it determined that the trooper was shot in the abdomen by a bullet from a handgun that was in Tortuguita's possession.

Word of Saturday's protest had been widely circulated on social media and among leftist activists; fliers were distributed that read: "Police killed a protester. Stand up. Fight back."

Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said during a news conference that authorities made six arrests Saturday and recovered explosive devices after protesters damaged property along Peachtree Street, a corridor of hotels and restaurants. He said authorities halted the violence within two blocks, and no citizens or law enforcement officers were injured.

"We can tell now, early in this investigation, this was not the focus tonight just to damage the windows of three buildings and set a police car on fire," Schierbaum said. "The intent was to continue to do harm, and that did not happen."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp decried the violence and thanked the responding officers.

"Violence and unlawful destruction of property are not acts of protest," the Republican governor tweeted. "They are crimes that will not be tolerated in Georgia and will be prosecuted fully."

Opponents of the training center have been protesting for more than a year by building platforms in surrounding trees and camping out at the site.

They say the $90-million project, which would be built by the Atlanta Police Foundation, involves cutting down so many trees that it would be environmentally damaging. They also oppose spending so much on a facility they say will be used to practice "urban warfare."

The GBI said about 25 campsites were located and removed in Wednesday's raid, and mortar-style fireworks, edged weapons, pellet rifles, gas masks and a blowtorch were recovered.

Seven people, ranging in age from 20 to 34, were arrested and charged with domestic terrorism and criminal trespass, with other charges pending, the GBI said. None of those arrested are Georgia residents.

CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Photographs by Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

DR. KWANE STEWART, known as the "Street Vet," confers with Christina Crayton, 39, right, about the health of Pepper, center, before he examines the dog on L.A.'s skid row. Stewart, from San Diego, is co-founder of Project Street Vet, a nonprofit organization.

A crusading vet's pet project

Kwane Stewart treats some of L.A.'s most cherished residents: the animals of skid row

By Salvador Hernandez

Kilo, a muscular gray pit bull, stood staunchly by his homeless owner in the middle of 6th Street on L.A.'s skid row. His tongue lolled out, and his wide, square jaw was open as if he was grinning ear to ear.

"Is this your boy?" Dr. Kwane Stewart asked as he walked toward the pair.

Hector Abadin yanked on Kilo's chain leash and turned to walk away without saying a word.

"I'm a veterinarian," Stewart said. "I walk the area and find pets like yours and give free medical care."

Abadin stopped. He'd been living on the street for the last year, and this was the first time he'd had a chance to get medical care for Kilo or his other four-legged companions. He looked down at the dog, then up at Stewart.

STEWART checks on a newborn puppy under the watchful eye of its mother inside the skid row tent of Hector Abadin.

"I have his girlfriend at home," he said in Spanish, pointing to Kilo. "She had puppies today. Come!"

For 12 years, exchanges like this have made up much of Stewart's free time. About twice a month, the San Diego veterinarian makes his way to homeless encampments in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles counties, looking to provide free medical care to the pets of unhoused people. He comes ready with medicines, vaccines, syringes and treats, offering to see the dogs and cats there on the street.

He's treated pets for extreme flea infestation, worms and, sometimes, broken bones. He's answered owners' questions on how to care for their animals with the limited resources they have, and he's listened to their struggles and pride-filled stories about their furry friends.

[See **Stewart,** B6]

WATER AGENCY ROILED BY NEW STRIFE

Corruption charges against Central Basin wholesaler manager stoke board infighting.

By Ian James and Dorany Pineda

For years, the Central Basin Municipal Water District was seen as a poster child for government dysfunction: State auditors slammed the agency for questionable contracting practices, poor leadership and violating the law. Competing lawsuits accused officials of corruption and harassment, while the district's bond rating plummeted.

Then in 2020, as some California lawmakers sought to dissolve the district's board of directors and place it in receivership, the Commerce-based water wholesaler hired a self-described "turnaround specialist" to reform the district, which serves almost 2 million residents in southeast Los Angeles. The troubled district was finally entering a new age, some hoped.

But those hopes have now faded as the district finds itself in yet another major scandal.

General Manager Alejandro "Alex" Rojas — the man who was supposed to rehabilitate the district — now faces charges of money laundering, soliciting a bribe and grand theft embezzlement. The charges, which were filed in August, stem from his days as superintendent of La Puente's Bassett Unified School District in 2014-17, and not from his work at the water district.

Rojas has denied any

[See **Central Basin,** B4]

Filing offers details of hack at LAUSD

Intrusion into school district's system began weeks earlier than previously reported.

By Howard Blume

An intrusion into the computer systems of the Los Angeles school district began more than a month earlier than was previously disclosed and probably exposed confidential information, including Social Security numbers, of more than 500 people who worked for contractors, according to information filed with the state.

As the district previously disclosed, the security breach does not appear to extend to the payroll records and Social Security numbers of the tens of thousands of district employees. However, information such as date of birth and address appears to have been breached for an undisclosed number of students who were enrolled at some point from 2013 through 2016, as well as some employees during that period. California school districts don't collect students' Social Security numbers.

Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

SUPT. Alberto Carvalho has said the attack was stopped "midstream."

The new information comes by way of a "Notice of Data Breach" that the nation's second-largest school system was required under state law to send to potential victims.

School district officials Friday did not provide information on the number of possible victims. In addition to having to notify victims, a notice letter must be filed with the state attorney general when the number of those affected surpasses 500 California residents.

[See **Cyberattack,** B7]

Steve Lopez Los Angeles Times

MORRIE MARKOFF and his family celebrate his 109th birthday in downtown L.A. on Jan. 11. "He has a solid grasp of what is going on," his son says.

At 109, Morrie pushes back on the limits of age

STEVE LOPEZ

Morrie Markoff didn't respond right away when I emailed him recently, which made me worry a bit. So, I reached out to his son, Steve Markoff, who reassured me that his father was fine.

And about to celebrate his 109th birthday.

"He is amazing," Steve said. "He watches CNN, and we talk politics. He has a solid grasp of what is going on."

I met Morrie a decade ago, when he sent an email inviting me to have a cup of coffee with him at the L.A. Department of Water and Power cafeteria across the street from his downtown condo. Since then, we've stayed in touch and he's been busy.

At 100, the retired machinist and appliance repairman had his first art show when a gallery owner discovered his collection of scrap metal sculpture. At 103, he finished a memoir titled "Keep Breathing," his answer to anyone who asked him the secret to a long life.

Morrie is a shot of inspiration for me, and for anyone who wants to believe it's possible to keep pushing back against the inevitable. But at the same time, I

[See **Lopez,** B10]

GOLDEN STATE California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults. Read his other columns online at **latimes.com.**

LAPD apologizes for 'breach of trust'

Chief Moore meets with family of former TV exec who accused ex-CBS boss of assault.

By Meg James

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore has apologized to the family of a former television executive who accused former CBS chief Leslie Moonves of sexual misconduct.

Moore's apology came after disclosures that a former LAPD captain in 2017 shared information about Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb's allegations with CBS executives, including Moonves.

The Los Angeles Police Department was rattled last fall amid accusations that the former commander, Cory Palka, provided special treatment to Moonves when he was in charge of the LAPD's Hollywood station. Palka allegedly worked to cover up Golden-Gottlieb's sexual assault report in 2017 and 2018, according to a November report from New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James.

The disclosures prompted Moore to open an internal review into the conduct of a former member of his department.

On Thursday, Moore and other LAPD officials met with Golden-Gottlieb's

[See **Apology,** B7]

Asian elephant at the L.A. Zoo is euthanized

The 61-year-old Jewel was in deteriorating health and had been monitored "around the clock" since Sunday. **B3**

Bridgeport area hits minus 27

Low temperatures in the valley in the Eastern Sierra have been running 30 degrees below average. **B2**

Lottery **B2**

Athletes disciplined, coaches out after viral video

Vista High incident in locker room is being investigated as a case of possible battery.

By Lyndsay Winkley

A group of Vista High School athletes has been disciplined and a new coaching staff is being installed after an investigation into the school's football program found a pattern of "inappropriate and unacceptable behavior" among some players, district officials said Friday.

The announcement came months after protests erupted over a viral video of an incident involving a 14-year-old in the school's varsity football locker room.

In the video, the boy, who is shirtless and wearing shorts and socks, is picked up and carried into a room, where he is pushed to the floor.

He is surrounded by other teens, one of whom is holding what looks like a wooden broom handle. The video ends with someone helping the boy up and shoving him out of the room.

The incident was one of two reported to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department involving possible student misconduct at the school on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

Officials said the incident in the video was being investigated as a possible battery and that the boy was not sexually assaulted.

The department was not immediately able to provide an update on those investigations late Friday.

The district said it asked independent investigators to look into the Vista High School football program.

"The outcome of the investigation indicated a pattern of inappropriate and unacceptable behavior occurring among a small number of football players," Vista Unified School District Supt. Matt Doyle said in a letter sent Friday to the campus community.

He added that although the district couldn't elaborate on the discipline imposed, "I assure our community that consequences have been and are currently being imposed on a number of student athletes."

The superintendent also announced that the high school would be restructuring its football coaching staff and that the district would begin recruitment soon.

Pat Moramarco, the school's athletic director, said the top coaching job would probably be posted in the coming week and may come with a teaching position.

Dave Bottom, who was the coach when the two incidents were reported, was placed on leave and a part-time coach was released as Vista High officials investigated the matter, a school leader said in September.

"I would like to take this opportunity to reassure all parents, students, staff, and members of our community that we expect that the values of our school district are practiced on every campus and during every event, both academic and extracurricular," Doyle's letter read. "How we behave and treat each other matters."

District officials said that although the investigation took months, they implemented several initiatives immediately after learning of the incidents. These actions included hosting an athletics and sportsmanship workshop, holding implicit bias training for athletes and coaches, and engaging all football players in a restorative justice process with assistance from the National Conflict Resolution Center.

All high schools reexamined their coaching protocols as well as their codes of conduct and expectations for behavior for student athletes and coaches, district officials said.

Winkley writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune. U-T staff writer John Maffei contributed to this story.

Lottery results

For Friday, Jan. 20, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

20-29-31-64-66—**Mega 17**
Jackpot: $20 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	1	$15,578
4	33	$531
3 + Mega	90	$221
3	2,117	$11
2 + Mega	1,856	$11
1 + Mega	15,183	$4
Mega only	38,066	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

7-16-22-31-42—**Mega 21**
Jackpot: $26 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

5-14-19-46-64—**Powerball 22**
Jackpot: $473 million

Fantasy Five: 2-16-22-30-36

Daily Four: 6-7-8-9

Daily Three (midday): 5-1-5

Daily Three (evening): 1-6-8

Daily Derby:
(11) Money Bags
(12) Lucky Charms
(9) Winning Spirit
Race time: 1:45.07

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Think you're chilly? Bridgeport area hits minus 27

Valley in the Eastern Sierra has seen low temps 30 degrees below average.

By Colleen Shalby

Mario Tama Getty Images

THE TEMPERATURE in Bridgeport on Saturday tied for the 27th coldest day on record there. Above, Chris Alexander and his dogs near South Lake Tahoe.

Overnight at the edge of the state, temperatures dropped in the area around Bridgeport, hitting minus 27 degrees in the early morning hours Saturday.

The mountainous area near Yosemite National Park — situated between Mammoth Lakes and Lake Tahoe — is accustomed to cooler temperatures, but since the two weeks of storms that hit California, it has been running about 30 degrees below its average low of 10 degrees for the time of year, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Tony Fuentes.

"That valley specifically can get very cold," said Fuentes, chalking up the extreme cold to "light winds, clear skies and a bunch of new snow on the ground."

The temperature is much colder than it was this time last year, when it hit 2 degrees. Saturday's reading is tied for the 27th coldest day on record in Mono County's Bridgeport, where about 550 people reside, according to the U.S. census. The area's coldest recorded day arrived on Jan. 31, 1937, according to Fuentes, when the temperature dropped to minus 37 degrees.

The statewide record occurred shortly before, on Jan. 20, 1937, when Boca — just north of Lake Tahoe — weathered minus 45 degrees. A Los Angeles Times article that week said the cold front brought "influenza, frozen toes, broken water pipes and automobile radiators, icy streets and traffic disruption."

The temperature is expected to remain in the minus teens for the first half of the week, Fuentes said.

Kate, a 31-year-old resident of the area who declined to give her last name citing privacy concerns, said the area has been monitored for avalanches in recent weeks and that the roads throughout Mono County have been icy. But she and other residents know how to handle the cold.

"I had to start my truck 30 minutes early just so it was warm in there," she said about how she prepared for her four-minute drive to work Saturday. She said that she and her husband use a wood stove to heat their house, and check in on their cat throughout their workday.

In Southern California, temperatures will remain about 5 degrees below average, meteorologist Mike Wofford said, as light Santa Ana winds are expected to increase Sunday night to Monday in the valleys and mountains. Over the weekend in the downtown Los Angeles area, lows were expected to drop to the 40s, with highs in the low to mid-60s.

The drier weather is a far cry from the intense rains that flooded parts of Los Angeles County and devastated areas throughout the state in recent weeks. But it isn't out of the ordinary for this time of year.

"It will feel cooler than it usually is," Wofford said. "But it's not uncommon to get offshore winds in the winter, and certainly not unusual to get a longer stretch of dry weather."

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Photographs by Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

RIVERSIDE COUNTY sheriff's deputies lead the funeral procession for Deputy Darnell Calhoun on Saturday. Calhoun's death was the second killing of a Riverside County deputy in recent weeks.

Slain Riverside County deputy remembered as kind, dedicated

Darnell Calhoun, a 30-year-old father of two, was shot while responding to a call.

By Adam Elmahrek

The Riverside County sheriff's deputy who was shot and killed on Jan. 13 was honored Saturday morning at a funeral service where he was remembered as an exceptionally kind and dedicated public servant.

The black hearse that carried the casket of Deputy Darnell Calhoun wound its way through a 50-mile route to the Abundant Living Family Church in Rancho Cucamonga as mourners lined the roads to pay their respects to the slain officer.

The 30-year-old deputy was shot while responding to an "unknown trouble" call at a residence in the unincorporated community of Lakeland Village, according to the Sheriff's Department. He was transported to a hospital, where he later died, officials said.

The suspect, 42-year-old Jesse Navarro, exchanged gunfire with a second officer who arrived at the scene, according to officials. On Jan. 14, Navarro was reported to be in critical condition.

ANCELIN ARMIJO salutes during the funeral procession in Rancho Cucamonga. Sheriff Chad Bianco described Calhoun as "strong, kind, compassionate."

Calhoun's death shook the local community and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, which was still reeling from the death of another deputy, 32-year-old Isaiah Cordero, who was shot while making a traffic stop in Jurupa Valley two weeks earlier.

A portrait of Calhoun dressed in his department's officer's uniform was displayed on the church stage near his casket, draped in an American flag.

Church and police leaders recalled Calhoun as faithful and compelled by an ever-present sense of duty.

Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said Calhoun often expressed concerns that he had not done enough for someone while responding to a call, and wanted to know how he could better serve the people he encountered.

"By all accounts, Deputy Calhoun exemplified what we want our deputies to be: strong, kind, compassionate," Bianco said.

Calhoun spent two years with the San Diego Police Department before he was hired by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in February 2022, a move he made because he wanted to shorten his commute and spend more time with his family, Bianco said.

Calhoun leaves behind two young children and a widow pregnant with a third child.

Redondo Beach official may face more discipline

State Bar accuses Zein E. Obagi Jr. of seeking to mislead judge about money's whereabouts.

By Rebecca Ellis

An attorney serving on the Redondo Beach City Council who is accused of misappropriating half a million dollars meant for a former client now faces additional disciplinary charges over his explanation for why the money wasn't handed over.

The five disciplinary charges announced Thursday by the State Bar of California, which include seeking to mislead a judge and making misrepresentations to the Superior Court, set in motion a disciplinary process that, in the most extreme cases, could end in disbarment.

The councilman, Zein E. Obagi Jr., has denied the accusations and said the State Bar is overreaching.

He faced seven disciplinary charges filed in July 2021, including an allegation that he "intentionally misappropriated" $515,000.

Two years ago, according to the disciplinary charges, $1.9 million was deposited into Obagi's account as part of a settlement agreement around the sale of a cannabis dispensary, Valley Herbal Healing Center.

Obagi had represented the owners and, according to filings from the State Bar, was supposed to transfer $515,000 from that settlement money to his former client, Eric Dominguez.

Now, the State Bar alleges that he made false statements about what happened to the money.

In a lawsuit filed in 2021, Obagi blamed a different attorney involved in the settlement agreement, saying that attorney was the one responsible for transferring the settlement money to Dominguez.

According to the State Bar, that attorney had transferred money to Obagi with the explicit understanding that he would use some of it to pay his former client.

"The new set of charges alleges additional misconduct by Obagi, in particular false statements that he made in a lawsuit that he filed in court," Chief Trial Counsel George Cardona said.

In an interview, Obagi called the newest charges "ludicrous" and said he was just the latest target of an overzealous State Bar.

"I never thought I'd be charged by the bar for anything. Now that I have been, it's a total, absolute nightmare. It's not justice," he said. "I could have been more diligent at different times, but that's the extent of it."

A recent Times investigation found that the State Bar has a record of going after attorneys without the capital or political clout to fight back, a population that is disproportionately Black, while ignoring misconduct by some of the state's most prominent lawyers, such as Tom Girardi, who misappropriated millions of dollars from clients and was the subject of more than 200 State Bar complaints.

Obagi, who said he is part of a small firm, believes the charges against him are part of this pattern.

"It's a machine. It's churning for convictions," he said. "That's all it gets fed on, so that's what it's going for."

The original charges, filed in 2021, are still pending. Obagi said an agreement between him and the State Bar was rejected by a judge because he said there was no evidence that the alleged misappropriation was intentional.

A status conference is scheduled for Jan. 30, when the court will decide how to proceed on both sets of charges.

When will we see new Bass appointees?

Mayor has moved quickly on homeless problem but more slowly on nominees.

By David Zahniser

Since taking office, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has been laser focused on the crisis of homelessness, declaring a state of emergency and moving scores of homeless people out of encampments in Hollywood and Venice and into temporary housing.

Bass has pointed to those efforts as evidence that she is moving with great urgency. Still, there is another area of city government where her pace has been not quite as breakneck: choosing the citizens who will represent her, and the public, on the city and county's many boards and commissions.

One of the most potent ways a new L.A. mayor can put their stamp on city government early in their term is by selecting a new slate of appointees to oversee the LAPD, the Department of Water and Power, the region's transit system, city animal shelters, street repairs and many other services. For now, those panels remain filled with scores of commissioners selected by former Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Bass' administration is about to enter its seventh week. By midday Friday, she had submitted three commission nominees, including one to the airport commission and another to the library board, according to the city clerk's office.

Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

THREE of Karen Bass' predecessors took office on July 1, giving them more time to build their teams.

That pace lags behind some of Bass' predecessors at City Hall.

By his second week in office, Garcetti had announced a slate of new appointees to the five-member Board of Public Works, one of the city's most powerful commissions — and the only one whose members earn a full-time salary. By his third week, he had picked three new appointees to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors.

Garcetti's predecessors, Antonio Villaraigosa and James Hahn, moved even more rapidly.

In his first month, Villaraigosa nominated an array of new appointments to the police commission, the public works board, the airport commission and the Metro board. Hahn spent his first month filling commissions that oversee the LAPD, the DWP, LAX and the Port of Los Angeles.

All three mayors removed most, or even all, of a commission's members during their first months in office.

Asked about the new mayor's progress, Bass spokesperson Zach Seidl said she will replace commissioners eventually, at least in some instances. In others, she may only fill commission seats that are vacant due to a resignation or other causes.

New commissioners, Seidl added, will probably be announced next week.

"We look forward to many more commission appointments to come, and will continue moving at the rapid pace that we have taken with bold and unprecedented action on homelessness," he said in an email.

The lack of commission appointments has created at least a couple of tricky situations.

The five-member police commission, made up entirely of holdovers from the Garcetti adminstration, embarked this month on a hugely significant task: deciding whether Police Chief Michel Moore deserves a second term.

If Bass nominates a new slate of police commissioners now, she could end up interrupting that process midstream. But if she holds off, her new appointees might not be seated until after the panel has cast its vote on Moore.

Vacancies are also becoming an issue for the citywide planning commission, which has seen three of its members resign in recent months.

That nine-member panel, which reviews major development projects, had to cancel next week's meeting because it lacked enough members for a quorum.

It's worth noting that Garcetti, Villaraigosa and Hahn had a key timing advantage over Bass. They took office on July 1, which allowed them to build their teams over the summer.

Bass took office Dec. 12, thanks to the change in the city election calendar, and had to set up her administration during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Times staff writer Julia Wick contributed to this report.
This article originally appeared in L.A. on the Record, The Times' local politics newsletter. To subscribe, visit latimes.com/newsletters.

L.A. Zoo's oldest Asian elephant is euthanized at 61

By Matthew Ormseth

The Los Angeles Zoo's oldest Asian elephant, 61 years old, has been euthanized, officials said Friday.

Jewel was in deteriorating health and had lived at the zoo near Griffith Park since 2010, according to a statement announcing her passing. Veterinarians and other staffers had been monitoring her "around the clock" since Sunday, officials said.

"In the end, we realized that her quality of life was continuing to decline despite our best efforts, and we had to make this very difficult decision to compassionately euthanize her," Dr. Dominique Keller, the zoo's chief veterinarian and director of animal health and wellness, said in the statement.

Jewel was once owned by Willie Davenport, a Texas man whose family was in the circus business. The then-24-year-old bought Jewel and another Asian elephant, Tina, from a retired elephant trainer for $150,000 in 2006, The Times reported in 2009. The two lived in Davenport's barn with a third elephant, Boo, which had been in his family for four decades.

Regulators from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accused Davenport of failing to secure permits and mistreating the elephants, which were said to be dangerously thin. Allowed to keep one, he chose Boo.

Jewel and Tina were taken to the San Diego Zoo, where Jewel underwent dental surgery and treatment for abscesses on her feet, before coming to Los Angeles in 2010.

Zoo officials described Tina, 57, as Jewel's companion of 30 years. The zoo is also home to a bull Asian elephant, Billy, 38, and a 51-year-old female, Shaunzi.

Asian elephants hail from southeast Asia, with India home to 60% of the world's wild population of about 40,000.

Much of their habit has been destroyed, zoo officials said, and poachers hunt the endangered animals for their tusks.

Jamie Pham Associated Press

JEWEL, SHOWN in 2020, was once owned by a Texas man whose family was in the circus business.

Water district roiled by infighting and charges

[**Central Basin,** from B1] wrongdoing.

The charges have stoked bitter infighting among board members and complicated decision-making at one of Southern California's major water wholesalers. Some district residents are concerned about the allegations against Rojas and other officials.

"There's this pervasive culture in southeast L.A. politics where, in my view, profit-driven and special-interest folks take advantage; they see these cities and these agencies as a way to help their businesses and to serve themselves," said Juan Muñoz-Guevara, 25, of Lynwood.

"In some of these southeast cities, people are working paycheck to paycheck, just trying to make ends meet, and with these smaller agencies, you trust that the people elected to them are going to be doing right, and running the agency right," he said. "And these people understand that and use that."

At a recent board meeting, accusations of lying, mismanagement and crimes flew as two members voiced concerns about Rojas remaining in his position even as he faces corruption charges.

Board members Leticia Vasquez and Martha Camacho-Rodriguez slammed Rojas and other board members, saying the water district lacked adequate financial controls or transparency, and they feared public money may be at risk.

"I'm concerned that Alex Rojas also serves as the primary person on the district's finances, the treasurer. He should not be acting as the general manager and the treasurer," Vasquez said. She called for Rojas to be placed on administrative leave.

Camacho-Rodriguez called for a forensic audit to be performed on the district's finances.

"I can't believe that anything at our agency at this time is clean, not while he's had two years of handling our books," Camacho-Rodriguez said.

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

BOARD MEMBER Leticia Vasquez has called for Alejandro Rojas, general manager of the Central Basin water district, to be placed on leave as he faces corruption allegations from his days as a school superintendent.

Rojas, who holds a doctorate of education from USC, insisted that the agency's management and finances are in order and that proper procedures are being followed. He also said that improvements in the district's bond ratings during his tenure have "saved the taxpayers a lot of money."

Prosecutors allege that in 2015 and 2016 — when Rojas served as Bassett Unified's superintendent — he schemed to divert more than $1.4 million in public money by approving invoices for work that was never done.

He was charged along with Luis Rojas, the chief executive of Del Terra, a company that was hired to oversee construction projects for the school district. The two men aren't related.

"Illegally diverting voter-approved bond money from schools not only deprives our children of already scarce resources but also diminishes the public's trust in and support for our educational institutions," Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón said when announcing the charges.

The pair are scheduled to be arraigned March 15.

News of the corruption charges troubled Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), who co-authored the bill that would have placed the district in receivership more than 10 years ago.

"I am deeply concerned by the allegations facing the general manager of Central Basin," he said in a statement. "This is just the latest in a long line of issues facing Central Basin Water District and threatening their credibility. We need to be able to trust that our local water agencies have the community's best interests at heart."

In an email to The Times, Craig Missakian, Alex Rojas' attorney, said his client was "caught in the crossfire" of a 2018 investigation report written by the school district's general counsel, Francisco Leal, targeting Luis Rojas and his company, adding, "there is nothing to substantiate the charges." He said the unfounded charges are a "political hit piece masquerading as a criminal complaint."

In an email, Luis Rojas called the district attorney's case "frivolous" and alleged that Leal's complaint was based on "rumor and speculation."

"Had the DA's office done its own homework — rather than simply taking Mr. Leal's word — they would have seen that the charges are without merit," Luis Rojas said in the email, which Missakian sent to The Times. He pointed out that a judge in a related civil case against his company reviewed the fraud allegations and dismissed them, and said he is "confident that the same will occur in the criminal case."

Missakian said Alex Rojas "adamantly denies the central allegation in the criminal case — that he took part in a pay-to-play scheme with a contractor ... and looks forward to clearing his name."

Missakian said because the case has not affected the work he does for the district in any way, Rojas "sees no reason to resign pending the outcome of his case, which he believes will ultimately be decided in his favor." Two credit rating agencies "have reviewed the district's operations and finances and gave it a clean bill of health," the lawyer said.

At least one activist remains concerned.

"Why is he still operating as GM of Central Basin when he is under indictment?" said Charming Evelyn, chair of the water committee for the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. "This is very highly unusual, and he should be removed."

Some of the fiercest criticism of Rojas has come from Vasquez, who is no stranger to political clashes. In 2007, Vasquez — along with other Lynwood City Council members and then-Mayor Louis Byrd — were voted out of office in a recall after years of investigations, corruption allegations and a proposal for an NFL stadium.

Even before Rojas was charged, Vasquez sued the water district alleging that Rojas, general counsel Robert Baker, board President Arturo Chacon and then-board member Robert Apodaca had violated her civil rights.

The complaint says that because Vasquez is a "whistleblower who publicly disclosed a multitude of wrongdoing and corruption at Central Basin, these men have conspired together to stop her from publicly speaking and otherwise disclosing illegal, improper, unreasonable, immoral and unethical activities."

In an email, Baker said that Central Basin "will defend this matter and are confident we will prevail."

Chacon declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Among other claims, Vasquez alleges that Rojas and others bullied her, devised a scheme to reduce her pay, deactivated her official email account and wrongly censured her. She said there have also been other incidents of intimidation.

In the lawsuit, Vasquez alleged a "physical assault" by fellow board member Apodaca during a 2020 meeting. In a video of the incident, Apodaca is seen standing from his seat and grabbing and pulling Vasquez's arm as he reached for the gavel.

Apodaca could not be reached by phone or email, but in court documents, the district has denied all of Vasquez's allegations.

Missakian called the lawsuit and the claims of rights violations frivolous.

"Nobody, least of all Dr. Rojas, has prevented Ms. Vasquez from speaking her mind, as her countless public statements — at board meetings, by email, on YouTube, and otherwise — clearly demonstrate," Missakian said.

Time's Up winds down its operations

By Jocelyn Noveck

NEW YORK — The Golden Globes carpet typically glitters with crystal-studded gowns in pastel hues, but it looked different in January 2018: The ballgowns were black, and the night's key accessory was a pin that read "Time's Up." Onstage, Oprah Winfrey brought guests to their feet with a warning to powerful abusers: "Their time is up!"

Five years later, Time's Up — the now-embattled anti-harassment organization founded with fanfare during the early days of the #MeToo reckoning against sexual misconduct — is ceasing operations, at least in its current form.

A year after pledging a "major reset" after a scandal involving its leaders' dealings with then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York amid sexual harassment allegations, the group tells the Associated Press that Time's Up is shifting remaining funds to the independently administered Time's Up Legal Defense Fund and stopping other operations.

The decision, which board Chair Gabrielle Sulzberger said takes effect by the end of January, caps a tumultuous period for an organization that made a splashy public entrance on Jan. 1, 2018, with newspaper ads running an open letter signed by hundreds of prominent Hollywood movie stars, producers and agents.

After the highly visible show of support days later at the Globes, donations flowed into a GoFundMe to the tune of $24 million, earmarked for the nascent Time's Up Legal Defense Fund. Months later came the formation of the rest of Time's Up, which promised to clean up an industry rocked by the stunning allegations against mogul Harvey Weinstein.

By January 2023, Time's Up looked very different after a radical housecleaning of its own — sparked by a damaging internal report — with only a skeleton crew and three remaining board members. Remaining funds total about $1.7 million, Sulzberger said; the millions from the early donations already went to the legal fund.

JORDAN STRAUSS Invision/Associated Press

TIME'S UP will shift remaining funds, about $1.7 million, to its Legal Defense Fund by February.

"It was not an easy decision, but the board was unanimous that it's the right decision and the most impactful way we get to move forward," Sulzberger told the AP.

She and the remaining board members — Colleen DeCourcy and Ashley Judd, the actor and one of the most powerful early Weinstein accusers — will step down as the Time's Up Now and the Time's Up Foundation, the groups that formed what is commonly known as Time's Up, shut down.

"Very simply, the Legal Defense Fund really reflects who we were not only at our inception but really at our core," Sulzberger said. "We really just decided that at the end of the day, we needed to go back to our roots. [The fund] was the first initiative that we formed and funded, and remains at the heart of everything we stood for."

The fund is administered by the National Women's Law Center in Washington and provides legal and administrative help to workers, most of them identifying as low income and 40% as people of color. Time's Up Now and the Time's Up Foundation had focused on policy and advocacy work.

Uma Iyer, vice president of marketing and communications at the law center, says the fund has helped connect more than 4,700 workers with legal services, and funded or committed funding to 350 cases out of just over 500 that applied.

Employment and civil rights lawyer Debra Katz, long among the nation's most prominent attorneys dealing with sexual harassment cases, called the fund a crucial resource for survivors and their advocates.

"They understand these issues and they've always been completely survivor-centric and respectful of survivors," Katz said of the law center, with which she's worked for decades.

But Katz, who represented key Cuomo accuser Charlotte Bennett, was highly critical of the Time's Up organization, specifically former CEO Tina Tchen and former board Chair Roberta Kaplan. Both resigned in August 2021 amid uproar over revelations they had offered advice after Cuomo was accused of misconduct and that Tchen initially discouraged other Time's Up leaders from commenting publicly on allegations by accuser Lindsey Boylan.

"You cannot back-channel to corporations and entities and believe you were providing strategic advice when you're also suing those entities because they've engaged in serious wrongdoing," Katz said. "That's what they attempted to do. It just erodes trust with survivors."

Current Time's Up leaders point out that the organization was instrumental in the fight for legislation increasing protections for workers, including extending the statute of limitations on rape in 15 states, and working toward achieving pay equity in women's soccer. The group also worked on issues involving working families affected by COVID-19, such as emergency sick leave.

"I have two adult daughters, and the kinds of issues that I faced as a young woman in the workplace, I feel Time's Up has made a huge difference in moving that needle," Sulzberger said.

Despite early fundraising success, Time's Up was plagued by issues from the start, often accused of being too aligned with Hollywood. The group had leadership problems too. In February 2019, CEO Lisa Borders resigned over sexual harassment allegations against her son. About two years later came Tchen's and Kaplan's departures.

Announcing its "reset" in November 2021, the organization made public a report prepared by an outside consultant that listed numerous deficiencies. Among them: confusion over purpose and mission, ineffective communication internally and externally, the appearance of being politically partisan and seeming too connected with Hollywood.

The staff was reduced to a skeleton crew and the few remaining board members spent a year listening to the group's many stakeholders before making a decision, Sulzberger said.

Katz said it would be wrong to see the travails of Time's Up as a sign of weakness of the overall #MeToo movement. Quite the opposite, she said: It shows the movement's resilience.

"As movements progress and become more mature, they go through phases. But if anything, this shows the power of this movement because victims of sexual violence came forward and said, 'We're not going to countenance this [conflict] within our organization,'" Katz said. "It shows the power of individuals demanding clarity in their organizations and leaders."

Noveck writes for the Associated Press.

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DATABASE ARCHITECT (corporate title: Senior Data Engineer) job open @ Fox Cable Network Services, LLC in Los Angeles, CA. Telecommuting permitted from any location in the U.S. Pursuant to state and local pay disclosure rqmts, the pay range for this role, with final offer amount dependent on education, skills, experience, and location is: $170,000 to $187,000. This role is also eligible for various benefits, including medical/dental/vision, insurance, a 401(k) plan, paid time off, and other benefits in accordance with appl. plan docs. Benefits for Union represented employees will be in accordance with the appl. collective bargaining agreement. Full details & rqmts, and to apply visit our website at www.foxcareers.com. Job #R50021207

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Developer IV to develop & maintain automated test frameworks, maintain automation assets & increase automation footprint. Remote work option. Salary $118,123/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17211.

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Developer V to design & develop computer apps. Must have SAFe for Teams Course (5.0) Cert. Remote work option. Salary $147,410/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17210.

IT: ADP Technology Services, Inc. seeks a Principal Application Developer at our Pasadena, CA loc. to participate in relevant aspects of the SDLC, incl. planning, constructions, testing, reviews, & demos. Bach's deg, in Comp. Sci, Comp. Engg, Info. Sys. or a rel'd field + 5 yrs. of rel'd exp. Annual base salary for this position is $147,410 to $291,200. 2 yrs. of exp. must incl: SAP ABAP; SAP BW; SAP Business Objects; BW HANA data models; BEx queries; Analytics using BI tools incl. Web Intelligence; SAP Lumira; ABAP; SAP Webi; BW aggregates, BWA, table indexes, & BW stats; SAP ECC6; & Performance tuning. To apply, please respond to req. 234713 at http://jobs.adp.com. Alternatively, applicants may mail their resume to the following address referencing req. 234713: 1 ADP Blvd., MS 248, Roseland, NJ 07068.

ENGINEERING-mPulse Mobile, Inc. is recruiting for our Encino, CA office: QA Automation Manager: Oversee & manage QA team. Define, develop & manage all processes associated with quality assurance of all software products for mPulse Mobile. Telecommuting allowed. Email res (must reference job code #42734) to careers@mpulsemobile.com.

Elevance Health, Inc. seeks Solutions Engineer Advisor Sr. in Woodland Hills, CA to code and maintain complex components of information systems. $147,410 to $157,410 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com ref # 13391.

PETS

MARKETPLACE
To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale
Los Angeles Times

Pet Adoptions

Cavalier King Charles Pups Boys/Girls Blenheim, Tri, Ruby. Shots UTD Vet Checked Ready Now call/text 310-345-7254

Dogs

POODLE AKC RED standard pups! Parents OFA/clear DNA tests.Tails done, wormed, vaccinated. Can deliver to Bishop! $1,500-$2,000. **(775)267-5350**

Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Champagne Pups ready now infosilveroselabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

MALTIPOO Tiny. $999. White or multicolor. Under 5 lbs @ 10 wo. Allergy friendly, social, smart, and calm. Pet insurance required. UTD shots. **(949) 331-0035**

GOLDENDOODLE Mini. Phantom chocolate, black, or golden. Under 20 lbs. $999. Allergy friendly, social, smart, and calm. Pet insurance required. UTD shots. **(949) 331-0035**

Employment

Pluto TV seeks a Data Test Engineer in West Hollywood, CA to make sure data quality and integrity is maintained as new events are added to applications. Telecommuting permitted. $118,123 - $135,000. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref #92186.

Electrical Engineer (Alhambra, CA). Master's Degree in EE or related field; Six mos work exp in EE or related field; Proficiency in Autodesk AutoCAD & The MathWorks MATLAB; Well-rounded knowl of electrical equipment design & solid electrical schematics creation skills; Clear communication, ability to work with others, & strong problem-solving skills. Full-time position. Salary: $101254/yr. Apply to Chenco Engineering, Inc., 1721 W. Garvey Ave, Suite C, Alhambra, CA, 91803. Email resume to chencoee@aol.com.

ENGINEERING
Spin Master is accepting resumes for Associate Principal Engineer in Los Angeles, CA: Collaborate with GBU (Design and Brand teams) on generating new design concepts. Requires domestic and international travel up to 10%. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $127,691 - $198,500. Mail resume to Spin Master, Attn: HR Team., 5880 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. Must reference Ref. APE-AK.

Manufacturing Engineer Provide technical expertise & support for battery development & manufacturing. Solve problems with new/existing products. Improve battery module manufacturing processes or reduce costs. Develop & research battery reliability. Requires Master's degree in manufacturing systems engineering, mechanical or electrical engineering & 6 months experience as a RA, Student Intern/Associate. Computer aided design CAD software; Computer aided manufacturing CAM software-CNC Mastercam; 3D Printing; Must have completed Six Sigma Green Belt Course. Send resume & cover letter to BigBattery, Inc., ATTN: HR, 21314 Lassen St, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

MECH ENGR
Belkin Int'l Inc. has an oppty for a Sr Mech Engr. $136,000.00/yr to $148,488.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in El Segundo, CA or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Up to 5% domstc & up to 15% int'l travel reqd. Email resume w/Ref#
ESMAN to
Talent@belkin.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Network Automation Engineer sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Irvine, CA: Contribute to network automation through workflow-oriented mindset (planning, design, implementations, & operations). Salary: $111,404 - $178,246/yr & Standard Company Benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. Hybrid work is permissible. When not working from home must report to Irvine, CA office. Send resume to: Global Mobility Team at cgapplications@capgroup.com. REF. JOB CODE: IR0322DM

Optum Services, Inc. Software Engineer. Cypress, CA. Participate in the full software development lifecycle, including development, code reviews, testing and production. Rate of pay: $129,492-$173,582/year. Mail resume: UHG GMI Recruitment at 9900 Bren Road East, MN008 R120, Minnetonka, MN 55343 and indicate applying for #22-CA-4372.

Lowermybills.com has multi immed openings for Principal Data Engineers in Playa Vista, CA to provide technical expertise & solution design for projects that ingest large volume of data into the Cloud Data Warehouse or consume data from it. BS* - Comp Sci/Engnrg, Mgmt Info Sys, or rel. + 5* yrs exp in position above, as a Software Engineer, Programmer/Analyst, or in a rel data engineering or ETL developer role. Exp. must incl. at least 3 yrs w/ each of the following: Executing multiple data warehouse projects & data integration in a variety of business domains, using Snowflake, Oracle, or Teradata; Developing & deploying automated ETL pipelines using SQL; & Writing complex, highly optimized, SQL queries across large data sets. * Will accept equiv foreign degree; will accept Master's degree or higher & 3 yrs of rel exp; will also accept any suitable combo of edu, exp, &/or training. Send resume to S. Kim, LowerMyBills.com 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, Ste. 250 Playa Vista, CA 90094

Project Engineer: interpret plans; design electrical systems; address electrical controls issues. Salary: $100,500 - $110,500 per year. Mail resume: Cell-Crete Corp, Job ME003, 135 Railroad Ave. Monrovia, CA 91016.

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Senior Devops Engineer to design & develop Farmers' apps to increase efficiency by supporting the migration to AWS. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary $157,477/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17325

SR. COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEERS Woodland Hills, CA area. Designing and developing applications using HTML5, CSS3 & ReactJS. Implement RESTFUL Web services for hosting and consuming. Some job duties can be performed from home. Travel / relocate to various unanticipated locs as reqd. Salary: $124,987 - $133,000 per year. Send res to: Pro-Tek Consulting, hr@pro-tekconsulting.com OR 21300 Victory Blvd., Ste. 240, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Cost Estimator sought by a company specializing in, design, sales and installation of fire, life safety services. Work site: Santa Clarita, CA. Salary: $19.37. per hr. 40 hrs weekly. Bachelors degree req. in Construction Engineering or. Electronics or, any other closely related + 12 mos. exp in same job or, any other closely related in the same industry. Mail resume to: Tri-Signal Integration, Inc. Attn: Exec. Vice President. 28110 Avenue Stanford, Suite D. Santa Clarita, CA 91355.

Employment

Executive: Exec VP Worldwide Distribution Home Entertainment in LA, CA. Ld sls tm to ensure max sls & profitability for all trans activity. Devel new rev strm & aclt commercialization of extg & fut cont opp. Req: MBA or US equiv + 2 yrs exp in job, as CEO, President or VP of Sales. Must include 2 yrs of media/entertainment industry exp leading worldwide home entertainment sales, managing sales team, initiating pricing, promotions & customer engagement for company w/ global operations. Salary range $460,000 to $495,000/yr. Send Resume to Blair Fraser, HR, Paramount, 5555 Melrose Ave, LA, CA 90038.

Assurance Advisor (Financial Services Office) (Manager) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Provide audit services, demonstrating to clients that there is real value in the audit process, above and beyond the regulatory mandate. Requires domestic travel up to 30% in order to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $135,940 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1392803).

Auditor, Assurance - Financial Accounting Advisory Services, (Financial Services Office) (Senior) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Assist corporate clients to address the strategic accounting and financial reporting challenges facing their businesses and finance functions. Must be able and willing to travel up to 60% on short term notice, of which 10% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $113,400 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1395601).

FINANCE
BYD Motors LLC has an opening in Los Angeles, CA for Accounting Manager to be responsible for the accounting and reporting for financial management of BYD PPE business. Wage range $90,000 to $110,000. Ref job code C# 5787158 & mail resume to: BYD Coach & Bus LLC. Attn: HR, 1800 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90015

Toranj Restaurant is seeking a Food Prep. Worker in L. A.; Req: 3yrs exp. as a Persian cuisine cook, food prep worker or assistant cook in a Persian restaurant.

Home Health Aide: Cares for developmentally disabled or elderly person housed in residential care facility, performing combination duties: Changes bed linens, washes laundry, cleans rooms. Serves food. 3 mons exp. req. $31,990/ yr. Send resume to Noumea Care Home, Inc. ,5978 Noumea St. Cypress, CA 90630. Attn: Consolacion Burgos

Elevance Health, Inc. seeks IT Quality Control Advisor in Woodland Hills, CA to analyze business requirements and coordinate with business and development team to derive test requirements. $113,072 - $123,072 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com ref #17277.

JOB
Software Engineer Software Engineer for online retailer. Must have Master Degree in CS or CE & relevant experience, $140,000 / yr. Send resume to Fabletics, Inc. 800 Apollo Street, El Segundo, CA 90245 or email to rdeguzman@techstyle.com.

Customer Service Mngr, supervise admin. & customer service employees
Resume: Ildo Construction, Inc., 7154 Fenwick St, Tujunga, CA 91042

MANAGEMENT
Emplr: Rizo Lopez Foods, Inc. dba Don Francisco Cheese Job: Regional Gnrl Mngrs in Gardena, CA: Responsible for overall sales, product profitability, trade support expense, growth of sale in SoCal. 10-15% Dom travel. Will supervise 25-35 employees. Min pay: $167,211.00/year. Apply: GTobia@rizolopez.com and ref. Job Code RGM-201.

Project Manager (Bush Interiors, Inc. dba Jamie Bush + Co) (Los Angeles, CA) Orgnz wrk effrts of team & act as primry facltr of communctn w/ client & team; Ld tm to formltn of projct dsgn philsphy, incptn to cmpltn; Wrk w/ Princpl & Offc Mngr on prep of fee agreemnts & contrcts; Monitor progrss, id issues, dvlp stratgs for presntn to clnt; Intrfc w/ vendrs & subcontrctrs to coord prodctn & projct schedls; Maintn ovrsght during constrctn & attnd progrss review meetngs; Obtn subcontrctr quotes; Resrch & promote systm apps to imprv quality of wrk. Exp reqd: Exp mngng staff in fast-paced studio envrnmnt; wrkg in resdntl & hosptlty dsgn, & dvlp & coord constrctn docs & spec pckgs; Strng tech knowlg of dsgn genres & architctr histry; Flncy in AutoCAD, ArchiCAD, SketchUp & Adobe Suite; Profcncy in MS Word, Excel, Outlook & Dsgn Mngr; Dvlpd aesthetc sense in use of matrls, color, form, txtr, proprtn, compstn; Wrkg knowlg of bldg systms, eng concpts & constrctn prcs; & Ablty to wrk w/ indvdls: clients, consltnts, code offcls & constrctn trades. Reqs BS/BA or frgn equiv in Interior Dsgn, Interior Architr or Architr or rltd fld, & 8 yrs exp as Interior Dsgnr or rltd occ. Opt wrk from home partlly availb. Occsnl projct-bsd trvl w/in U.S. Salary: $81,474 - $135,365. Send C.V. to Mony@jamiebush.com

Dassault Systemes Americas Corp seeks Senior Partner Sales Manager - Sales Expert in Woodland Hills, CA. To execute the indirect sales strategy of the NAM GEO in assigned territory. Telecommuting permitted. Requires travel 40% of the time (domestic and international). Pay Range: $143,320.00 - $153,320.00 Apply at https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref #77278.

Employment

Manager sought by CNM LLP in Woodland Hills, CA to manage strategic tech'l acctg advisory engagements & lead multi-disciplinary teams serving clients in multiple industries. Req.: BS/for eq + 4 yr. exp. *Telecommuting Permitted*. Salary Range: $106,974 to 125,000/yr. Email resume: eagoston@cnmllp.com. REF: MLW-22

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Predictive Analytics Manager to contribute to the develpmnt & implementation of predictive analytics by applying advanced statistical & analytical techniques. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary $99,885/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17214

Austin Commercial L.P. seeks Aviation Project Manager in Los Angeles, CA to oversee construct projs by planning, scheduling, & coord all proj phases. Reqs Master's degree in Civil Eng, Construct Mgmt, Architecture, or related field & 3 yrs of exp working in aviation projs; utilizing Proj Mgmt softw, such as CMiC, Prolog, Bluebeam, &/or Autodesk BIM 360; & perf cost projection, scheduling, & budget reviews. $119,267.00 per yr. Email resume to careers@austin-ind.com

Digital Marketing Specialist needed: Send resume to Codeage, LLC., 5628 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. Job location is in Los Angeles, CA, wage ranges from 44k to 47K.

MARKETING: ByteDance Inc, Senior Operations Manager (Mult.Pos.), Culver City, CA. Build the go-to-market strategy of TikTok LIVE streaming business. Establish operational structure of workflow, standard processes, & cross-functional guidelines for day-to-day operations. Up to 10% domestic travel required. Work from home 2 days a week permitted. Salary range: $195,936-$203,680 per year. To apply & info. on benefits offered visit: https://jobs.bytedance.com/en/ & type Job ID T3309 in search bar. Contact lpresumes@bytedance.com if you have difficulty applying.

Auto Mechanic. HS /GED + 2 yrs exp as Auto Mechanic or rltd req'd. Worksite: Huntington Beach, CA. Send resume: Merchandizing of Automotive & Components, Inc.; 15591 Container Ln. Huntington BCH, CA 92649; Attn: Nakamaru

Medical Assistant Asst in eval pts & perf MI tests. Reqs: 1 yr exp in job offrd or rltd healthc pstn & CPR cert from AHA or ARC. 40hrs/wk. Salary: $36,795.00 – $52,000 per yr. Job Site: Woodland Hills, CA. Email Resume to F&M Radiology Medical Center, Inc. at bellafrmc@aol.com.

Music Teacher to play Tar & Daf. Mail to Beyond Vision Music Foundation, Inc., 1279 Bucksmoore Court, Westlake Village, CA 91361

Xos seeks Manufacturing DELMIA Planning Specialist In LA, CA to be rspble 4 & coordnte, all prdct configurations & manufctring plns assocted w/ root node 'Manufacturing Assemblies' w/in PPR Contexts. Psition rqures a BS or foreign equivalent in Industrial Eng, Manufacturing Eng, Manufacturing or rltd field & 2 yrs of exprnce in job offrd or rltd occ. Salry $89,648-$150,000. Snd rsumto recruit@xostrucks.com w/ rfnc #kzkwuqtfcz

Content Producer in Fullerton, CA. Min reqmnt: Bach. deg. in Film, Producing, Broadcast, or rel. Mail resume to ODK Media, Inc., Attn: Nicky Kim, 221 N. Harbor Blvd., # E, Fullerton, CA 92832.

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger seeks Project Consultant for our Building Technology division. Must have a BS in Civil, Structural, or Arch Engineering & 1 year of exp. in civil or structural engineering, incl.: bldg construction or an allied field; Working w/AEC s/w incl. Sketchup, Bluebeam; Hand sketching of bldg construction details; Writing technical reports & specs; Working w/CA Bldg Code & applicable bldg materials & performance standards; Conducting air & water penetration testing per ASTM standards; Project mgmt incl. proposal writing, budgeting & workload forecasting; Recruiting activities. Must have passed the EIT/FE exam. Send resume to Jobs@SGH.com. Salary range $89,898/yr-$92,040/yr.

Columbia West Education Group (Columbia West College) in LA, CA - F/T Student Recruiter. Prep social media mat to targt internl studnts, respond to prspective students inquiries, share feedback with Dirctrs. Rqd: BA in Marktng, Business Admin or rltd (Forgn Dip Ok)+24mos markting or sales rltd job. Resumes:judy@columbiawestcollege.edu

Employment

Sales Account Manager sought by Econolite Control Products, Inc. in Anaheim, CA to Sell Econolite's innovative Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) products & services, primarily to government transportation agencies. Req: BS + 10 yr. exp. 30% travel. Salary: $118,456 - $124,738/yr. Email resumes to SBurns@econolite.com

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Data Scientist II to apply math./statistical logic to help make informed decisions & solve problems. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary $135,000/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17420

SECURITY

SECURITY
$15-$18.50 hr no exp nec. will train, pt/ft all 3 shifts in LA , OC. 8a-6p 7 days. Montebello 323-889-1922

Application Development Specialist (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Develop, design, and maintain software products or systems to support client strategies. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00140582). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $124,987.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

S/W QA ENGR
Phyn LLC has an oppty in El Segundo, CA for a QA Engr. $118,123.00/yr to $126,505.00/yr. Email resume w/Ref# ESSIN to
Talent@phyn.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Prophecy Consulting Seeks Software Developer. Must have MS in Computer Sc., Software or Electrical/Electronics Engr. or related or a BS with 5+ years of experience. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply: kumar@prophecyconsulting.com

Software Engineer II (Los Angeles, CA) Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC: Dvlp user mgmt API's to assist PlayStation Prtnrs w/ SSO into PlayStation environ, web dvlpmt, & Okta admin & spprt. Reqs Master's in CS, Comp Eng'g, or rel. fld or equiv, & at least 1 yr of exp providing arch. spprt to dvlp co. proprietary apps & pltfrm native to the cloud. Prior exp must incl at least 1 yr of exp dsgn'g & dvlp'g sw for shared & common srvcs incl ingress & egress proxies, common email srvcs, logging & metrics pipelines; maintaining & updating sw codes to ensr optimal performance & resiliency of co. proprietary sw; maintaining sw associated w/ continuous integration & deployment pipelines; & in executing duties, util'g JavaScript, Golang, AWS srvcs incl ECS, DynamoDB, EKS, ECR, Event bus, Kafka, & Solace. Telecommuting &/or wrk'g frm home may be permissible pursuant to co. policies. Salary range: $113,200 – $169,800/yr. Send resumes to SIE-Job-Postings@sony.com & indicate job code RA6240025. EOE.

Senior Dev Ops Software Engineer (Korn Ferry (US) / Los Angeles, CA) – Act as Sr Dev Ops Softwre Engnr; build scalable, secure & robust tech'l solutns w/ product vison, incorprtng new techs as req'd as a DevOps engnr; prodce high-qualty & bug-free code per codng stanrds in close collabortn & interactn w/ other membrs of DevOps & Dev/QA team. Reqs Master's in Info Technology, Comp Engnrg, or anthr dirctly reltd field & 2 yrs exp in job offrd or in IT positns incldng Assistant VP; or a Bach and 5 yrs exp. Bkgrd in educ, traing or exp must incld configrng & mngng Azure Cloud PaaS servcs; Azure DevOps Pipelines & Azure Kubernetes Servers & Dockers containrs; exp w/ RTC, Jenkins, Jfrog, UCD, Splunk, BlackDuck, WhiteSource HELM Cart, SonarCube, Artifactory, Ant, Maven, Gradle, NPM, GitHub, CosmosDB; exp w/ RESTful webservice & SQL database; exp w/ multi-threadng, data structrs, object-orientd desgn. Position can be perfrmd remotly from any locatn in the U.S. Resp to Brian.Bloom@KornFerry.com; ref job title in subjct line.

Employment

Manager - Healthcare/Economist for Analysis Group, Inc. in Los Angeles, California to provide innovative analytical methods to address needs of the health care research community in the areas of health economics, outcomes research, biostatistics, and epidemiology. Reqs: Master's degree in health economics, public health, biostatistics, statistics, epidemiology, health policy, or related quantitative science field or related field (willing to accept foreign edu equiv) +4 yrs of exp in a related occupation using advanced research and analysis methodologies. Will also accept applicants with a Ph.D in aforementioned fields (willing to accept foreign edu equiv) + 2 yrs of exp in a related occupation using advanced research and analysis methodologies. Multiple openings. Salary range: $230,000.00 - $252,500.00. Submit resume to Analysis Group, Inc., Juliet Cofie, 111 Huntington Avenue 14th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02199.

Aquatics Specialist
Feed and treat freshwater aquatic animals such as caridina and neo-caridina shrimps, and fish; perform quality control tasks including testing and maintaining water quality and cleaning aquarium tanks; keep records of feedings, treatments, and animals received and shipped; prepare outgoing shipments. Req'd 12 months of post-secondary edu. (degree not req'd) in Marine Biology, Aquaculture, Environmental Science, or related. Full-time. Send resume to Blue Crown Aquatic at 20709 Golden Springs Dr. #104-105, Walnut, CA 91789

Tax Manager (Gerber & Co, Inc; Los Angeles, CA): Facilitate and manage the preparation and review of company federal tax returns. Salary: $89,544 per year. Send resume to: Moshe Graber, Gerber & Co, Inc., 1880 Century Park E., Ste. 200, Los Angeles, CA, 90067

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Scrum Master to lead the delivery of Salesforce Service cloud CRM, Cisco Telephony, & Mulesoft integrations. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary $136,157/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17209

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Sr. Scrum Master to model advanced qualities of servant leader & Lean-Agile Leader on Farmers IT-related projects. Guidewire PolicyCenter cert. required. Remote work option. Salary $121,742/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17419

Technical Design Associate for Furniture Manufacturing Co., Creating initial design sketches, color themes & ideas. Utilize hand sketch & 3D software renderings to communicate design concepts. Produce accurate technical & contract documentation for construction of project. F/T at W. Hollywood, Ca. $56,160/year. Send resume to Minotti Los Angeles @ dawn@massbeverly.co

Technical Designer. Work closely with our Design team, Engineering team, & all other departments to develop systems, tools, & game content. Req. Bach. in Interactive Media, Digital Media, or rel. field or foreign equiv. & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp in rel occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Los Angeles, CA. Wage range: $88,192/yr to $124,000/yr. Send resume ref# 21301 to K. Finnsson, Activision Publishing Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Application Development Associate Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Develop or update project plans for information technology projects, including project objectives, technologies, systems, information specifications, schedules, funding, and staffing. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00140576). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $121,742.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

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More information. In a flash.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

GIYEHT
○ ☐ ○ ☐ ○ ☐

PSEORY
○ ☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ☐

YDIHRB
☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ○ ○

WORHNT
○ ☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ☐

APNSIR
☐ ○ ○ ☐ ☐ ○

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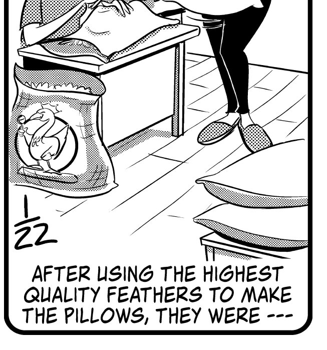

I've sourced some of the best feathers in the world.
It feels wonderful! I can't wait to use it!
1/22

AFTER USING THE HIGHEST QUALITY FEATHERS TO MAKE THE PILLOWS, THEY WERE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○

A friend of the fauna on skid row

Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

KWANE STEWART prepares to examine a dog that had just had puppies inside a man's tent. About twice a month, Stewart makes his way to encampments in San Diego, Orange and L.A. counties, looking to provide free medical care to the pets of unhoused people.

STEWART checks on Popcorn as he's being held by owner Greg Gibson, 64. Stewart had dreamed of being a vet since age 11.

STEWART prepares a parvo vaccination for a homeless woman's dog. He comes ready with medicines, syringes — and treats.

IT'S A CHALLENGING task tending to homeless people's animals, Stewart admits, but a rewarding one. That's why he has continued to make his way under freeway bridges, into tents on the sidewalks and into encampments, looking for anyone with a pet.

[**Stewart,** from B1]

They know him as the "Street Vet."

"These people out here who own pets, they're looking for a normal life, they're trying to get on their feet, they value companionship and they need it," Stewart said. "There are some people out here who can educate you about being a pet parent."

It's a challenging task, Stewart says, but a rewarding one. That's why he has continued to make his way under freeway bridges, into tents on the sidewalks and into homeless encampments, looking for anyone with a pet. And it takes no time at all for him to find them.

Studies estimate that across the country, 5% to 10% of homeless people own pets. One study, by professors and researchers at USC and UC Riverside, found that about 12% of unsheltered people in Los Angeles County in 2019 were pet owners.

The study also found that close to half of those owners were denied shelter services because they refused to give up their pets. Pet ownership, however, was associated with decreased loneliness and improved mental health among homeless owners.

Like many of their owners, these animals on the street are often ignored by public agencies and residents. At one point, Stewart also turned a blind eye, he said, but treating them has become his passion.

After graduating from Colorado State University in 1997, Stewart bounced around, working at pet clinics and animal shelters across California until landing in Stanislaus County in 2007.

Stewart had dreamed of being a veterinarian since he was 7, but that dream clashed with reality when he started to work at a county animal shelter. It was a source of steady income, which he needed. Veterinary school can cost an average of $200,000 to $275,000, according to the Veterinary Information Network Foundation, a nonprofit that assists veterinary students with college debt. Stewart was paying off tens of thousands of dollars in debt. But he struggled with the work required of him at the shelter.

Stewart remembers owner after owner dropping off a dog or cat, keeping the county shelter constantly crowded with unwanted pets. The recession from 2007 to 2009 only made things worse, with people unwilling or unable to take care of their pets. On some days, Stewart found himself euthanizing as many as 60 to 70 animals.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, about 920,000 animals are euthanized in U.S. shelters every year. One group, Best Friends, which advocates for no-kill shelters, says more than 100,000 animals were believed to have been euthanized in California in 2019.

The job, Stewart said, left him depressed and questioning his choice of career.

Then, in 2010, Stewart walked into a 7-Eleven for coffee before work and, in a departure from his usual routine, made eye contact with a homeless man who sat outside the store with his dog, who appeared to be ill.

"This dog looked like a burn victim," he said.

Stewart stopped and asked if he could check out the animal, whose hair was falling out, his skin covered with bumps.

Stewart returned the next day with medication to treat an acute flea infestation.

"It was five minutes of my time and $3 out of my pocket," he said. "I helped that guy, and then all of a sudden I started taking notice of all the homeless people with pets."

Weeks later, with the help of his son and girlfriend, Stewart organized a pop-up clinic next door to a soup kitchen in Stockton. The three walked up and down the line looking for pet owners and offering free care.

What Stewart didn't mention to his family, however, was that after the pop-up clinic, he continued to go out on his own, looking for street pets. Sometimes he'd venture out before work, during his lunch hour or during his free time.

"I started packing a bag and said, 'I'm just going to take the care to them,' " he said.

The cost of any medications for the animals was coming out of his own pocket.

"I did this in secrecy for seven years," he said.

He doesn't know why he kept it to himself, Stewart said. Perhaps he was worried that friends and relatives would question why he was donating his time and money so freely, or that they'd try to persuade him to stop or slow down, or that he'd be faced with unwanted opinions.

"Maybe I was afraid someone would judge, you know, or say something like, 'Why do you spend the money,' or 'They're homeless, they don't deserve a pet,' " he said. "I didn't want any of the questions. I just wanted to do it. It was my own little thing. It was my crusade."

By 2012, Stewart had moved to Studio City to become director of American Humane's No Animals Were Harmed program. Stewart helped draft requirements enabling companies to state that no animals were harmed in filming, and he monitored that animals in films and TV shows were being safely handled. Then in 2017, while talking off-set with a producer, Stewart mentioned his work with the pets of homeless people.

The producer told Stewart his work sounded like it could be the basis of a reality-TV show. When it seemed the project would come to fruition, he decided to tell his younger brother, Ian.

"It didn't really come as a surprise to me," Ian Stewart said. "We were raised by our mother as animal lovers and advocates. For him doing something like this, that wasn't much of a surprise."

The timing was perfect for the reality show, Stewart said. He'd found that he wasn't recommending the expensive medical care that pets sometimes needed. Paying out of pocket was becoming a burden.

"It was starting to get exorbitant," he said. "If I wanted to keep doing this, and care for all the pets I come across, I had to do something different."

In 2019, 11 episodes of "Dr. Kwane: The Street Vet" aired on Canada's Cottage TV. The series, produced by Two Sons Productions and Blizzard Road Productions, showed Stewart visiting homeless encampments across the U.S., offering free medical care, training and medicine for pets. Production of the show ended after the one season, but episodes are still available online.

As a result of the show, Stewart's social media following rocketed, and pet product companies reached out, looking to partner with him.

In 2020, the Stewart brothers started Project Street Vet, a nonprofit charity that provides free veterinary care to the pets of anyone vulnerable to homelessness.

Ian has since become the head of the foundation and manages his brother's social media accounts, documenting his work. He worked as executive producer of the show and has since been covering the stories of Stewart's patients on social media.

"It's been humbling and eye-opening," Ian said. "Sometimes we have our own perceived judgments of people and folks."

At times, comments on social media are critical of the pets' homeless owners, Ian said, and ask why someone who is struggling to care for themself is taking on a pet.

"What I learned after going out all these years with Kwane is these pets are loved as much or more as [those of] housed folks," Ian said. "I've seen it firsthand, that some of them will go [without food] for a night so their pet can eat, or travel long distances so their pet can get care."

Project Street Vet has also partnered with companies that make pet products, which has helped the foundation expand to Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Orlando, Fla. Now, as part of the foundation, groups of volunteers head out into the streets across the country to offer the same kind of help Stewart provided while on his one-man mission, he said.

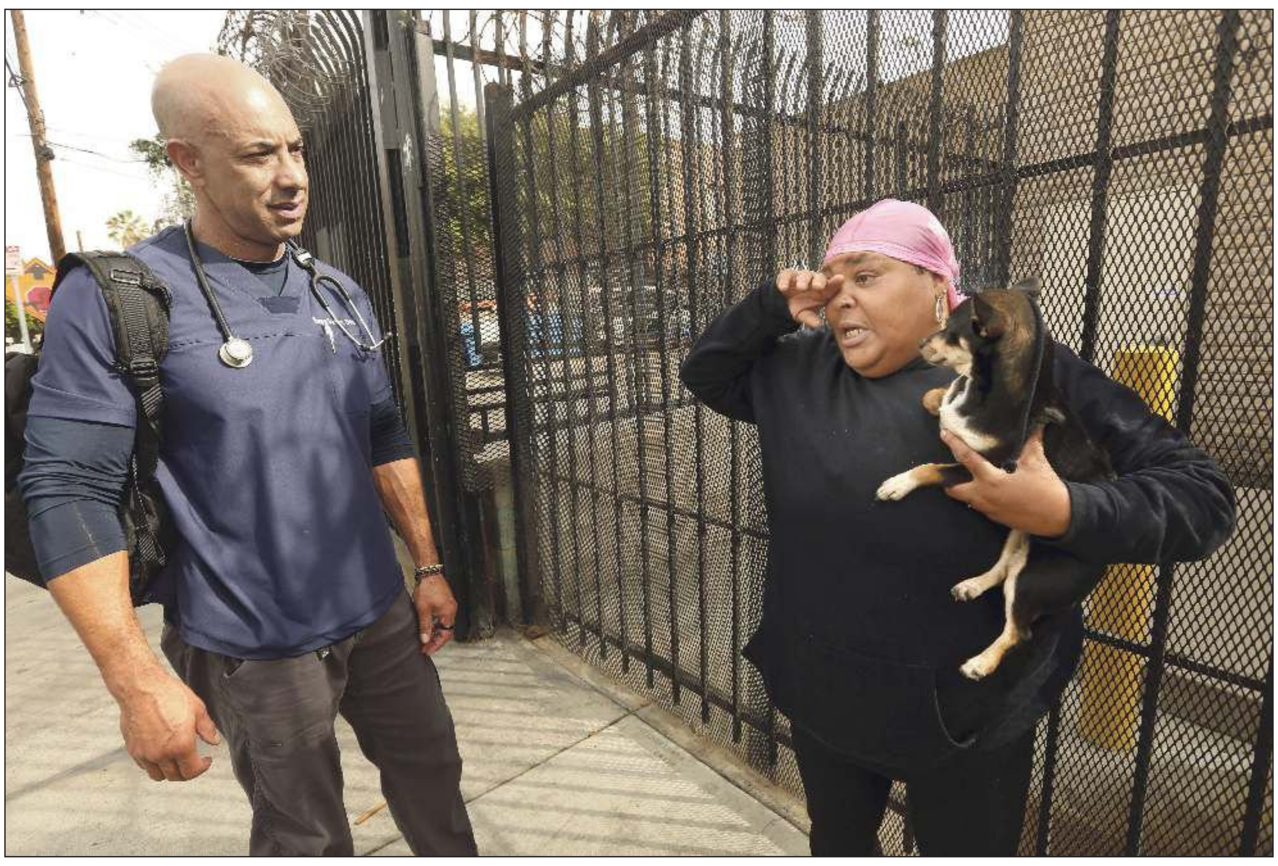
On Wednesday, Stewart followed Abadin past dozens of tents on skid row in Los Angeles. He pulled back the blue tarp of Abadin's tent.

Inside was another gray pit bull, Movie, nursing six newborn pups on a mattress. Abadin took her in a couple of months back, he said, from a young guy who was addicted to drugs and told him he couldn't care for her anymore.

He also took in another pit bull,

[See **Stewart,** B7]

> 'We were raised by our mother as animal lovers and advocates. For him doing something like this, that wasn't much of a surprise.'
>
> — IAN STEWART, Kwane Stewart's younger brother



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

VETERINARIAN Kwane Stewart chats with Kimberly McPeters-Guzman, who becomes emotional while discussing her injured dog, Chico. She showed him X-rays that revealed that Chico had two broken hind legs.

STEWART and veterinary nurse Genesis Rendon, right, examine cats owned by Mecca Harper, left.

A KITTEN'S ears are checked by Stewart and Rendon. News of his presence on skid row spreads fast.

[**Stewart,** from B6]
a month-old white-and-brown pup, after her owner told him he couldn't care for her.

"I felt sorry for her," Abadin said about the dog. "I saw her and she seemed too thin."

The new pit bull mother and the pups were healthy, Stewart said, but the white-and-brown pup seemed to have worms, which kept her from gaining weight.

Stewart gave the pup a vaccine and promised he'd be back in two weeks with a second vaccine dose and medicine.

"God bless you!" Abadin told Stewart.

The 58-year-old has been on the streets for years after his mother was hospitalized for mental illness and his father died, he said.

He was released from prison a year ago, he said, but it's difficult for him to get settled in a home because of his "nerves."

His dogs, however, keep him centered, Abadin said.

"It's a bit hard, but they help me," he said. "I love dogs, I just love being around them."

It doesn't take long before word gets out that Stewart is around.

"I got a dog!" said Christina Crayton, who'd noticed Stewart inspecting Abadin's dog.

In a few minutes, she had her dog, Pepper, in tow.

Near Crocker and 6th streets, Stewart ran into another woman living in a parked RV with her boyfriend and three dogs — a pit bull named Coco and two small black Chihuahua mixes, Chico and Chica.

Stewart quickly noticed Chico was dragging his back feet.

Owner Kimberly McPeters-Guzman said they had been in St. Louis over the holidays with her mother when they found Chico, injured, emerging from an alley.

"Somebody beat him, we think," she said, then showed Stewart pictures of X-rays taken of Chico.

"We don't know who or what."

"Both of his femurs, his back legs, are broken," Stewart said. "Yeah, this is bad."

McPeters-Guzman said they'd tried to get Chico care, but the surgeries for the broken bones were about $7,500.

"He's dealing with it, but I hate to see him like that," she said, adding that, since they couldn't afford the surgeries, she was looking for ways to keep paying for his pain medication.

"Those pain meds are expensive," she said, "but we don't care about, you know, we make a way to get the pain medicine."

"I know he's not acting like it, but he's in a lot of pain," Stewart said.

"That's as painful as it gets."

"I know, but we can't afford the surgery," she said. "If we had the money, he'd definitely have it."

Stewart looked at the X-rays on McPeters-Guzman's phone, then told her she needed to keep Chico from walking.

He knows a surgeon who can get him a good rate, he said, and he's going to reach out to make sure Chico gets the surgery.

If the bones are not yet beyond repair, he said, the foundation may be able to cover the costs.

"I'm glad I ran into you," Stewart told her.

"I'm glad you ran into me too!" she said.

LAPD apologizes to family for 'breach of trust'

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

FORMER television executive Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, left, with lawyer Gloria Allred in 2018, accused ex-CBS chief Leslie Moonves of sexual assault.

[**Apology,** from B1]
adult children and lawyer, Gloria Allred.

"Chief Moore … updated them on the status of the investigation, and apologized to them personally for the breach of trust by our former command officer when he shared information of their mother's crime report with CBS executives," LAPD Capt. Kelly Muniz said in a statement Friday.

Jim Gottlieb and Cathy Weiss spoke fondly of their mother, who died in July, during a news conference Friday with Allred at her office in Los Angeles. Weiss said she was thankful that her mother didn't live to see how her sexual assault complaint had been handled by the high-ranking LAPD officer.

Golden-Gottlieb kept the alleged sexual assault "secret for so many decades, out of fear, even though she was a staunch feminist," Weiss said. "She still was fearful about reporting, which is sort of ironic … [because] decades later, when she came forward, she was almost silenced again."

Weiss and her brother said they were pleased with their meeting with Moore and other LAPD officials.

"We feel that they are taking this matter very seriously," Jim Gottlieb said. "The public in general, and especially people who file sexual assault complaints, need to have confidence that police will treat them as the victims they are without any hint of shaming, or worrying that their confidential report will be compromised in any way."

It wasn't until the November release of the New York attorney general's report that Weiss and Gottlieb discovered the extent of the coordination between Palka, who has since retired, Moonves and others at CBS to bury their mother's allegations.

In 2017, Golden-Gottlieb, then 81, accused Moonves of sexually assaulting her in the mid-1980s when they were colleagues at Lorimar Productions, the powerhouse television studio behind "Dallas" and "Knots Landing."

On Nov. 10, 2017, Golden-Gottlieb drove to the Hollywood station and filed a report. She checked a box on the form that indicated that she wanted the information to be kept confidential, according to Allred.

"I was so proud when my mom told me that she was going to report his conduct to the police," Weiss said.

But over the next few months, the LAPD captain secretly provided Moonves and CBS executives with updates on the LAPD's investigation into Golden-Gottlieb's claims as well as her police report, which included personal details about her, the attorney general's office said.

CBS executives then "began investigating the victim's personal circumstances and that of her family," the report said.

Los Angeles County prosecutors declined to bring charges in 2018 because the statute of limitations had expired.

Moonves, through a spokesman, declined to comment Friday. He has previously denied the allegations of sexual misconduct.

Palka was not available for comment.

The LAPD internal investigation, which looks "at the overall administrative handling of the case," is ongoing, Muniz said Friday. Moore discussed with the Gottlieb family "the investigative steps that were taken and at this point we don't believe [Palka] was able to influence the investigation."

Allred said she requested the meeting with Moore on behalf of Golden-Gottlieb's children.

The gathering allowed the family to learn about the department's "commitment to investigate and hold accountable those who may have violated any laws or policies of the LAPD," Jim Gottlieb said.

There are indications the investigation is widening.

"Los Angeles Police Department investigators are working with the United States Attorney General, the California Department of Justice, and the Los Angeles District Attorney on any open criminal investigations," Muniz said in the department's statement.

Golden-Gottlieb lodged her complaint against Moonves when the #MeToo movement was reaching a fever pitch. In 2018, Golden-Gottlieb also shared her story with The Times.

Times staff writer Richard Winton contributed to this report.

State report reveals details of L.A. Unified cyberattack

[**Cyberattack,** from B1]
District officials had previously stated that there would be a small number of victims — "outliers," as Supt. Alberto Carvalho described them. The victims would be notified and assisted, he added, emphasizing that the overriding narrative was one of disaster averted.

Hackers made off with about 500 gigabytes of data — a figure agreed on by both the hackers and the school system. That's a large haul compared with what an individual user would maintain but a tiny fraction of the data under the control of L.A. Unified.

Data theft is only one part of an attack. The second part involves encrypting computer systems so that users cannot get in, paralyzing the ability to conduct everyday business.

The hackers managed to encrypt servers in L.A. Unified's facilities division but had limited success elsewhere. Normal operations, including classroom instruction and record-keeping, were hindered for about two weeks, but schools never had to be closed — as they have in hacking attacks elsewhere.

L.A. Unified refused to pay a ransom; the hackers responded by releasing the data they had to the dark web, where others could use it for identify theft or other malicious purposes.

District officials have for months publicly characterized the attack as beginning and ending Sept. 3 — the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. District technicians, when they noticed the attack, moved quickly and with substantial success to limit its scope.

"In a very, very unique way, we stopped the attack midstream," Carvalho said at a news conference in October. "That's very unusual. What usually happens is the entity finds out about the attack after the information was captured, uploaded, and the servers of the system [are] encrypted. … I can tell you that there have been a number of systems in this country who have fallen victim to this same actor that were not so lucky."

The follow-up investigation determined that an intrusion began as early as July 31.

"Between July 31, 2022, and Sept. 3, 2022, an unauthorized actor accessed and acquired certain files maintained on our servers," states the required notice, which was filed with the state last week.

State records list the span of the breach as July 31 to Sept. 3.

On Friday, the district maintained that the original one-day scenario is correct.

"The investigation revealed that the threat actor was engaged in reconnaissance on or about July 31, 2022," a district statement said. "The cyberattack began and ended on Sept. 3, 2022."

For cybersecurity experts, the disclosure in the notice letter was no surprise. They had predicted that an investigation would uncover that the intrusion into the system began earlier than was announced.

"Hackers are often inside networks for weeks or even months before they deploy the ransomware that encrypts the systems," said Brett Callow, threat analyst for the cybersecurity company Emsisoft. "This means there's a window of opportunity during which threats can be detected and neutralized before they become full-blown ransomware incidents.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

L.A. UNIFIED was vulnerable to hacking because of preventable lapses, Supt. Alberto Carvalho has said.

"In simple terms, a whole bunch of things happen before systems get locked," he added. "The hacker needs to do recon to get into the network, to ensure they can get back in, to gain access to other areas of the network, to exfiltrate data, etc., etc. All of these steps require them doing certain things — and those things can be detected if you're looking for them."

A newly released Emsisoft report indicates that the number of known cyberattacks on school systems in 2022 was about the same as in other recent years, despite "executive orders, international summits, increased efforts to disrupt the ransomware ecosystem and the creation by Congress of an interagency body, the Joint Ransomware Task Force, to unify and strengthen efforts."

It is unclear if the attacks are causing greater harm, according to the report.

"A decrease in the level of disruption caused by attacks or in the amount paid in ransoms could be regarded as a win even if the number of incidents had increased," the report states, noting that data to draw such a conclusion were largely unavailable.

The L.A. Unified data-breach notice contained unwelcome news for district contractors.

"On Jan. 9, 2023, we identified labor compliance documents, including certified payroll records, that contractors provided to L.A. Unified in connection with Facilities Services Division projects," the notice states. "Those files contained the names, addresses and Social Security numbers of contractor and subcontractor employees and other affiliated individuals."

Carvalho, who became superintendent nearly a year ago, said recently that the district was more vulnerable because of preventable lapses, including the failure to follow through with key recommendations of an internal cybersecurity audit that was prepared more than two years ago.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times

Kay McKenna Paietta

January 19, 1931 - December 28, 2022

Kay McKenna Paietta died peacefully the morning of December 28, 2022 at Glendale Adventist Hospital. She was a charter member of MonteCedro senior living community in Altadena, CA. Born on January 19, 1931 in Portland, OR, Kay was the daughter of the late J. Duke McKenna and Millicent Smith McKenna. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Stephen D. Paietta and her dear sons, Michael and Stephen, Jr.

Kay graduated from Franklin High School in Portland in 1948 and received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1952, majored in speech and drama and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Kay married a talented keyboard musician named Steve Paietta in 1952, and they moved to Los Angeles. They raised eight children and were very active in their Catholic Church community.

Following Steve's untimely death, Kay's life changed at the age of 48. She was employed by the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, then worked for Ronald and Nancy Reagan as their personal executive assistant. Kay remained in this position until her retirement at the age of 88.

Besides her children, singing and traveling were two great sources of joy in Kay's life. She sang as a tenor in church choirs throughout her adult life, including 17 years as a founding member and choir librarian of the Choir of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. She was a generous supporter of St Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo and Ramona Convent Secondary School, where she served on the board of directors and was awarded the school's highest honor, the Durocher Award. The Church honored her with the Papal Benemerenti Medal. She combined her passions for singing and travel with choir tours to several European locations, which included a performance for Pope John Paul II. Her last adventure, at the age of 88, was a riverboat cruise through Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand with her dear friend and honorary godson John Bonar.

Kay is survived by her children Madeline Munn (Ed), Christopher, Daniel (Diane), Mary Davis, Margaret Wolfe (Greg) and Robert; her grandchildren Ted Cookson (Cindy), Brian Cookson (Alice), Heather Lee (Brian), Stacy Woody (Brian), Andy Munn (Amy), Sean Davis, Christina Davis, Teddy Goodman and Alex Goodman; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

In honor of Kay's remarkable life, consider making a contribution to a charity benefiting your church, Catholic education, the arts, the environment, or children in need.

Kay's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 9:30AM at the Cathedral of Our Lady in Los Angeles. Arrangements are in care of Cabot & Sons, Pasadena, CA.

Florence "Deda" Jacobsen

October 27, 1938 - January 6, 2023

Deda was born in Chicago the second of three children. Her older sister coined the name because she had trouble saying Florence and the name Deda stuck throughout her life. Her family moved about and settled in Santa Monica in the early 1950's where she attended St. Monica and Norte Dame High School. She graduated Northwestern University where she studied for a career in dental hygiene and met her future husband and prominent Beverly Hills dentist, Raymond Jacobsen (1930-2015).

After beginning her career in 1959 as a dental hygienist in Pacific Palisades, Deda married Ray in 1960 and had three children, Eric, James, and Nancy over the next 12 years. She was a devoted wife and mother who juggled the many aspects of parenting with joy and dedication. When she wasn't working, she filled her time tending to her children's activities, doing charitable endeavors, and developing a love of cooking and entertaining. She was continually active in many charities during her life including National Charity League Los Angeles Founder Chapter, The Ebell, Santa Monica Westside Charity League, ARCS Foundation, as well as being a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Deda always exhibited exceptional artistic talent and this ability she pursued with passion her entire life. She entered a drawing contest in her early teens and won first prize which was personally presented to her by Walt Disney. In the early 1970's, she signed up for classes at Brentwood Art Center. She had retired from dental hygiene and was looking to rekindle her love of art. This proved to be her calling.

Within a year, Deda was offered a teaching job at the art school which she happily accepted. She had a knack for teaching and quickly became a fixture at the Brentwood Art Center. Her tenure as a teacher lasted more than 45 years. During that time, she not only taught countless students painting, life drawing, perspective, color theory, and art history; she created several series of original artworks. Most of these series received gallery exhibitions, including a Barnsdall Art Gallery exhibit in 1992. Later, she was a founding member of TAG, The Artists Gallery. Additionally, she fed her love of travel by coordinating several art tours and painting excursions to France and Italy with students and colleagues. Well loved by her students and generous with her time, she always helped them to embrace their own individual styles and achieve their desired results. For more information on Deda's art career please visit www.dedajacobsen.com.

Deda is survived by her three children and a brother, as well as several nieces and nephews. Her passing has dimmed all our lives by the loss of her vibrant smile, sparkling sense of humor, and vivid inner light. An internment ceremony is scheduled for 2pm January 30, 2023, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica for family, friends, students, and colleagues who may wish to attend.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary

Caroline McRoy

March 12, 1941 - December 13, 2022

Carol Lynn "Caroline" Ray Crosby McRoy, 81, of Studio City, CA passed away peacefully at home on December 13, 2022 surrounded by her family. She was born in San Francisco to parents Carolyn and Jack Ray on March 12, 1941 and was the eldest of 2 children. Shortly after she was born her family moved to Toluca Lake, CA. She graduated from Campbell Hall and Marlborough Schools and in 1959 she began studies at Northwestern University. She transferred to USC where she received her Bachelors in child psychology and pursued a Master's Degree in childhood development, eventually working with children at Camarillo State Hospital.

In 1969 she married Bernard Crosby and they had one son, John Brandon "J.B." Crosby. In 1972 her husband was killed in a car crash leaving Caroline widowed and a single mom to her only son. She was a devoted mother and worked tirelessly to provide for her small family. It took 20 years to find and marry her beloved Bob McRoy. They had 32 wonderful years together before he passed away at 92 on November 3, 2022. She was heartbroken and remained with us for only 5 weeks before her passing to join him in the great beyond.

Caroline was the epitome of grace and kindness. Anyone that knew her was touched by her gentle heart and magical spirit. She pursued a career in psychology yet found her calling working with plants and using her sense of humor to create her own nationally syndicated radio show in the '70s "The Plant Lady." Caroline's favorite things were her family, friends, animals, plants, books, travel, unicorns, angels, butterflies and chocolate. Her warmth and sweet laughter will be incredibly missed.

Caroline is survived by her sister, Jacki, son, Brandon, son-in-law Andy and grandchildren Jack and Rosalie.

Services will be held on Saturday, 1/28 at 12pm at the North Hollywood Church of Religious Science: 6161 Whitsett Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91606. Celebration of life to follow at home.

Dennis Lee Marquardt

April 8, 1943 - December 30, 2022

Dennis Lee "Rube" Marquardt passed away with family at his side after a prolonged series of health issues on Friday, December 30th, 2022. He was born in Pasadena, CA on April 8th, 1943. He moved to Covina at the age of 8, where his father, LeRoy, started the Covina Little League. While growing up, Denny played youth baseball, American Legion baseball and other youth sports, making a name for himself as a stellar athlete even before enrolling at Covina High School. There he starred as a four-year letterman in both baseball and basketball. Excelling in these sports, he was named to numerous All-CIF teams in both sports. After graduating from Covina High School, Denny signed a baseball contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, where he played outfield for five years. During the off season, he would return home to Covina and take courses at Cal Poly Pomona, keeping his promise to his mother that he would get his degree. After his years with the Dodgers, Denny finished his studies at Cal Poly Pomona and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. He then received his teaching credential from Pepperdine University and later his Masters in Education. Denny started teaching at Temple City High School in 1968, where he taught Health and Safety and Drivers Education to every incoming freshman for 35 years. In 1970 Denny met Clare Collins, an English teacher at TCHS who would later become his wife for the next 45 years. Denny coached a year of basketball at TCHS before being named the head baseball coach in 1971, a position he held for 27 years until 1997. As the Varsity baseball coach, his teams were, year in and year out, among the best in Southern California. In 27 years, his teams made 20 CIF playoff appearances and won ten Rio Hondo League Championships. Denny amassed 398 wins as the head coach and was recognized with induction into the San Gabriel Valley Coaches Hall of Fame. His jersey, Number 7, is retired at Temple City High School, and just recently the school's baseball facility was named Dennis Marquardt Stadium honoring his 27 years of dedication to the baseball program and the young men he coached along the way.

Denny was a very involved dad from the get go, doing his best to attend his sons' sporting events and his daughters acting/singing performances. He built their family home to be one where they could entertain, as well as, where all their kids' friends were always welcomed. He even went so far as to add a basketball hoop to the neighborhood cul-de-sac so kids had a place to go play or let off some steam. He always supported youth in their endeavors and always told his kids to dream big. He never met anyone he didn't like and always wore his heart on his sleeve. He dreamed big and he loved big.

Dennis and Clare resided in Sierra Madre for the past 48 years and to the end of his days still maintained "it was a best place to raise you, kids, and live. I love this town." The Marquardt family was a part of the St. Rita's parish in Sierra Madre, where all four kids attended school.

Dennis was predeceased by his wife, Clare Collins Marquardt, and son, Michael Marquardt and his parents, LeRoy and Helen Marquardt. He is survived by his sister, Janis Marquardt, children Katherine Marquardt, Martin Marquardt (Mary), Andrew Marquardt (Karen); grandchildren Calvin, Camille and Kennan, his brother-in-law, Charles Collins, sisters-in law, Sharon Collins and Otilia Collins, nine nieces and nephews, and twelve grandnieces and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena at www.bgcpasadena.org. His children would like to thank The Californian Rehabilitation Center for their constant care of their dad over these past 4 months. will be private and held at Pioneer Cemetery in Sierra Madre. Services will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 11am at Alverno Heights Academy in Sierra Madre. Cabot & Sons, Directors.

CLARK , Howard (Chris) Christian

May 30, 1947 - January 16, 2023

Howard Christian Clark (Chris) passed away peacefully on January 16, 2023, at his home in Palm Desert, CA. Chris was born on May 30, 1947, in St. Petersburg, FL. He is survived by his wife, Debbie Clark of 43 years, his daughter Trisha Clark Lauritzen and two grandchildren, Christian Lauritzen and Emma Lauritzen, who brought him much joy. He was a sports fanatic. He especially loved The USC Trojans and Thoroughbred Horse Racing.

Share a memory

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Los Angeles Times

Daniel Vincent Flynn

October 1969 - January 2023

Daniel Vincent Flynn was born to Jane Adella Flynn and Vincent Joseph Flynn at Enloe Hospital in Chico, California on October 4, 1969 and grew up in Red Bluff, California with his parents and five siblings. Dan attended Sacred Heart Elementary and Mercy High School in Red Bluff. He graduated from UCLA in 1993 with B.A. in History, and he earned an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University in 2001. His professional pursuits included roles in product management, marketing, business planning and consulting. Dan was full of life and loved by many. People who knew him remember him as gregarious, kind, loving, funny, talented, creative and smart. His many interests included music, comedy, fly-fishing, plants, cooking, drawing, sports, reading and spending time with his dog BB. He was happiest when doing anything that involved spending time with good friends and family. He touched many lives with his contagious laugh and warm smile. Dan was predeceased by his father, Vincent Flynn, in 1986. He is survived by his mother, Jane Flynn, and siblings Theresa Flynn Gasman, Anne-Marie Flynn, Patty Flynn Elliot, Brendon Flynn and Mary Katherine Flynn, as well as his three brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces and nephews.

We welcome friends and family to the following:

Graveside service on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Hook Road, Red Bluff CA 96080.

Gathering following graveside service 2:00 - 5:00 pm at The Kraft Building, 909 Jefferson St. Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Anita H. Levinson

February 2, 1934 - January 16, 2023

Anita Levinson, née Suddleson, died peacefully at home. She is survived by her husband, Burton, her children Ellyn Levinson and Doug Levinson, and her grandchildren Rachel Karas, Kelsey Levinson, and Trevor Levinson. She is also survived by her brother, M. Kenneth Suddleson. She is predeceased by her daughter Sherry Levinson, and her brother Matt Suddleson.

Anita took great pride in Ellyn's accomplishments. As an attorney, Ellyn dedicated her legal career to public service and to political and philanthropic commitments.

As a proud grandmother, Anita was thrilled to see both her oldest granddaughter, Rachel, accomplish her lofty academic goals, and to see her younger granddaughter, Kelsey, well on her way to becoming a doctor. She also enjoyed watching her grandson Trevor grow into manhood.

Anita was born in Akron, Ohio, the daughter of Edwin and Beatrice Suddleson.

Anita was a full-time partner to her husband, and not only was she a motivator in much of what he accomplished but, in fact, an inspiration.

Volunteerism was "in Anita's blood." She dedicated over 1,000 hours to the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center as a volunteer. She was actively involved in the Soviet Jewry movement in Los Angeles and testified before a Congressional Committee on behalf of that movement. She also participated in several philanthropic organizations.

Anita was very proud of her Jewish heritage and considered herself to be a patriot; she was honored to be an American.

The funeral service will be private.

James Norris Wilson

September 12, 1929 - December 2, 2022

James Norris Wilson was born in Indiana on September 12, 1929. Shortly thereafter, his parents, Victor and Alice, moved to Alma, Michigan. Jim and his older sister, Barbara Jean, spent their childhood in Alma, where Jim enjoyed Boy Scouts and pheasant hunting. He became an Eagle Scout.

He proceeded on to Michigan State, where he affiliated with ATO fraternity. It was the time of the Korean War, so upon graduation, he attended officer's training school, where he became a first lieutenant in the infantry. He was assigned to the occupation army in Germany for two years. Jim always praised his army experience.

Upon his return to the States, he enrolled in an executive training program offered by the Cadillac division of General Motors; thus beginning his lifetime association with Cadillac. One of his early assignments was an enviable one for the young man, selecting and training the models for the Motorama! These auto shows traveled across the country, introducing the next year auto model and concept cars.

In 1956, while vacationing in his family home in Frankfort, Michigan, he admired a young girl at the Crystal Dawns Country Club. Their family friends arranged them to meet the next day. That was the beginning of a lifetime relationship between Barbara Baker and Jim Wilson. They married the next year.

Within a year, General Motors transferred the newlyweds to San Francisco, where Jim was to be the assistant Branch Manager of the Cadillac retail store. It was here that Jim realized the potential of the retail side of the automobile business! Jim and Barbara loved their five years in Marin County, where their first daughter, Janice, was born. Jim remarked that he had the most beautiful commute in the world, across the Golden Gate Bridge.

In 1963, GM offered Jim the opportunity to manage the Los Angeles Cadillac Branch. He happily accepted, and the family settled into their new home in Arcadia, California. Soon after, their second daughter, Susan, was born. Three years later, Martin Pollard offered Jim a partnership at Casa de Cadillac in Sherman Oaks, Ca. The family moved and Jim enjoyed his five-minute commute to the dealership. Jim appreciated his clientele; selling cars to his neighbors, the Hollywood crowd, and professional athletes. All the while grounded in his Midwestern values, the importance of a handshake, looking someone in the eye and being true to his word.

Soon, his fellow dealers elected him to be the president of the Southern California Cadillac Dealers Association. This group fostered cooperation and friendship among the Los Angeles area Cadillac dealers. Jim initiated an annual trip to the Moira Kea beach hotel, which continues to be appreciated to this day. He was proud to be elected chairman of the National Cadillac Dealer council.

While living in Sherman Oaks, a puppy was left in the Wilson front yard. It was a Welsh corgi mix. From that day on, there has always been a corgi in their home. Jim was an animal lover.

With some free time, Jim rediscovered golf. He joined Lakeside golf club in North Hollywood, where he played team golf and introduced Barbara to the game. Many years later they joined The Los Angeles Country Club with its two fine courses. He continued to play team golf at LACC. He joined "The Sportsmen", a club within LACC resulting in lifelong friendships. He and Barbara traveled with these friends here and abroad. Jim began shooting his age at 72. Multiple holes-in-one brought joy. Jim played in many pro-am tournaments, the highlights being four rounds with Arnold Palmer their final paring, in the 1988 ProAm, at North Ranch Country Club they won the tournament; Arnie shot 77 and Jim 79!

Jim retired in 2008 and the business transitioned to his son-in-law, Howard Drake (Susan's husband). Barbara and Jim moved to Santa Barbara. They developed new friends at the Valley Club of Montecito and Birnam Wood Golf Club. Having had 93 years of living the good life, Jim passes away in his bedroom as he wished, with Barbara and his devoted caregivers by his side.

In many of the condolence cards, friend refer to Jim as "The Gentle Giant"… he was 6'5", or "The Ultimate Gentleman", which he was.

Survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara, daughters; Janice and her partner Jeffrey Ross, Susan, and husband Howard Drake, granddaughters, Hannah and husband Brandon Watts, Madeline and her husband Matt Riley, and great-grandson, Wyatt Wilson Watts!

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times

Sister Mary Euphemia O'Connor, PBVM

September 11, 1919 - January 17, 2023

Sister Mary Euphemia entered eternal life on January 17, 2023. She was the sixth of nine children born to Tom and Nellie O'Connor of County Kerry, Ireland. Her oldest brother Leo died as an infant. Brothers Tom, John and Gerald served in WWII. She and Sisters Kieran and Michaeline entered the Sisters of the Presentation, and her sister Carmelita became a Daughter of Charity. Peggy married Ed McGovern. Sister Euphemia was a Sister of the Presentation for 85 years.

Sister Mary Euphemia grew up in San Francisco. She received her Bachelor Degree in Science from the University of San Francisco.

Her education was further enhanced by summer seminars given by the Taft Institute and the Freedom Foundation in Pennsylvania, and also by the various people she met traveling on the Greyhound bus.

Sister taught and cared for boarders at St. Mary's elementary school in Gilroy. She also taught at schools in Albuquerque, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco. She loved all of her students and the many people who allowed her to be part of their lives.

Sister Mary Euphemia is survived by her nieces, cousins, Sisters of the Presentation and many relatives and friends in Ireland.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, January 27 at the Sisters of the Presentation Motherhouse, 2340 Turk Blvd., San Francisco, followed by burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma. Funeral attendance requires full vaccination, negative Covid test within 24 hours, and K/N95 masking. The Mass will be livestreamed; link available at presentationsisterssf.org.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony's Dining Room, the Brady Bill or your favorite charity.

Marilyn Horwitz

February 25, 1931 - November 16, 2022

Marilyn Horwitz passed away at the age of 91 on November 16, 2022, surrounded by her family. Beloved mother, grandmother and matriarch, Marilyn is survived by her son and daughter, Jeffrey (Lori) and Marianne (Wendy), stepsons Marc (Michelle) and Jeff and her grandchildren Madeleine and Abigail, Lena, Truman, Paige and Alex. Marilyn was predeceased by her granddaughter Koa, her sister Janet and brother-in-law Jack. She is also survived by her nephews, Bobby, Jai Pal and James and niece, Carole.

Marilyn was born February 25, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan to Sam and Sara Granadier. Shortly after graduating from Central High School, she joined her older sister Janet in Los Angeles, first working as a bookkeeper at Saks Fifth Avenue and later Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Marilyn married Richard (Dick) Lowenthal on February 21,1957, shortly thereafter they moved to the San Fernando Valley. Dick, who was in the produce business unfortunately passed away in 1971.

In 1976, Marilyn met the love of her life, Ira Horwitz MD. Ira originally from Chicago was a family practitioner and Chief of Staff at Riverside Hospital in North Hollywood. Marilyn worked as a bookkeeper in Ira's medical office until she retired.

Marilyn and Ira enjoyed each other's sense of humor and loved to travel throughout the United States, particularly to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and the Eastern Seaboard. Marilyn and Ira were devoted sports fans, attending Lakers, Dodgers and for a short time Raiders games. She also followed UCLA sports where her children attended college.

Marilyn was a lifelong, avid reader, which in turn led her to volunteering with the Los Angeles Unified School District Literary Program tutoring elementary school students. She also adored the movies and fancied herself a critic of sorts.

Marilyn's family was forever at the center of her world and nothing brought more joy than drawing everybody together to celebrate holidays and family milestones. Keeping her family close, even if they lived further away was one of her true strengths.

After Ira passed away in 1991, Marilyn moved to Century City to be closer to her daughter Marianne. In 2015, she moved to Belmont in Westwood where she resided for the rest of her life. Marilyn was an accomplished Pan and Mahjong player through which she established a close circle of friends who regularly played together and with a few of whom she traveled to Europe and throughout the United States.

Most of all, Marilyn was the wise one. She never shied away from expressing her opinion, and her family and friends listened respectfully. We will miss her as we honor her legacy, tell her stories and celebrate her traditions.

Donations in Marilyn's memory may be made to:
readingtokids.org
kol-ami.org

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COX, Carol Beverly

May 20, 1934 - April 8, 2022

Carol Cox passed away at her home in Los Angeles on Friday, April 8, 2022, at the age of 87 of cancer. Carol was born on May 20, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, to Nellie (Spalding) and Leon Cox.

Carol graduated from Whitmer High School in 1952. She moved to Los Angeles at the age of 23 and then attended Mt. Saint Mary's in West L.A. where she earned a degree in sociology in 1970. She fell in love with Los Angeles and stayed there for the rest of her life.

She became a paralegal and enjoyed this profession very much, especially research and writing, at which she excelled. Carol worked for Bill Clevenger, "her favorite boss", and for Paul Read at Wolf, Rifkin & Shapiro, whom she also highly regarded.

Carol enjoyed sports, particularly tennis, beach volleyball, softball and bowling. She won an award with her law firm bowling team, the "Fighting Irish," as well as awards for tennis, beach volleyball and softball. Carol was the Co-founder and Director of the Culver City Scrabble Club and a winner of the Scrabble National Expert Award.

Carol was predeceased by the love of her life, Vince. She held fond memories of playing tennis and sailing together.

Carol is survived by her brother Jerry and his wife Mimi of Michigan. She was predeceased by her sisters Nita and Colleen and her brothers Dave and Leon Jr. Carol is also survived by her loving nieces and nephews, her godson Peter and his wife Katie, as well as many friends. She had a particularly close bond with her youngest brother Leon Jr. who had Down syndrome. Carol and Leon shared a love of baseball. Carol was a long time LA Dodgers fan and one of her fondest memories was arranging for her brother Leon Jr. to come out from Toledo to visit her in Los Angeles, to attend a Dodgers game and meet some of his heroes.

Carol remained active and engaged in her community into her 80s. She remained hungry to learn new things, taking college classes and pursuing her writing, for which she had considerable talent.

She was grateful to her neighbors, her bereavement group friends, UCLA group friends and her best friends Lili and Don and their family. Through valleys of doubt, depression, cancer, physical and mental pain, her faith was challenged but never broken. Carol asked those who remember her not to mourn, but to be happy. During her last days, she learned how loved she was and how much love there is in the world.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Monica's Bessette Chapel in Santa Monica, California.

Honor a life
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GOODE, Joanna Lane

December 19, 1969 - January 14, 2023

Joanna died in her home in Santa Monica on January 14, 2023. Dearest daughter of Lee Saxon and Joe Goode; Dearest stepdaughter of Peggy Goode; Dearest sister of Greg Goode (Tatiana), Molly Goode (Ryan Nolting), Meghan Goode, and step-brother Patrick Murphy (Debbie); Dearest aunt of Lulu Goode and Ryan Nolting; Lifelong friend of Louise Post Parks.

Joanna was born on December 19, 1969 and grew up in St. Louis and moved to California in 1985. She graduated from California State University at Long Beach with honors and taught elementary school in the LAUSD.

She was a talented artist. She painted portraits. She was a singer and songwriter. She made beautiful jewelry. She loved music and dance. She modeled. She acted on TV. She loved being with family, especially with her brother, Greg, who was her best friend.

A true Sagittarius, she was a smart and funny free-spirit with a relentless drive for freedom and a seemingly endless well of strength. She was the friend of many and her fellow Scarface lovers will miss her dearly.

The world is yours now, Jo, and everything in it.

Services will be held at 2:00pm on Thursday, January 26th at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica, California.

The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming addiction treatment, ending stigma, and supporting communities.

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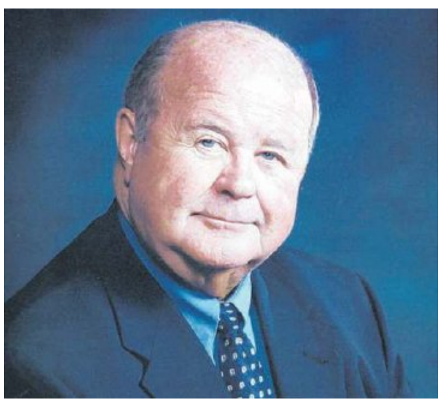

Ralph Joseph Martin Jr.

November 4, 1934 - November 21, 2022

Ralph Joseph Martin Jr. was born on November 4, 1934 in Iowa City, Iowa and passed away on November 21, 2022 in Torrance, CA. During Ralph's early years, the family lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where Ralph attended St. Mathew's Elementary School. When old enough, he was the altar boy for the daily Mass at six a.m. He delivered newspapers, mowed lawns or shoveled snow after school. The family moved to a farm near Central City, Iowa and Ralph attended and graduated from Central City High School. He excelled in vocal and instrumental music as well as academics and art. Ralph graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in city and urban planning. In 1957, Ralph married Phyllis French in Coggon Iowa and immediately began his service in the U.S. Army in Korea. After his discharge, Ralph and Phyllis moved to Riverside, CA, where he took a position with the City Planning Department. Ralph later joined Victor Gruen Associates in Los Angeles, and in 1971, became a partner, and later President of Richardson, Nagy, Martin Architects and Planners in Newport Beach, CA. In semi-retirement, Ralph designed, and with his partner, built Torrance Flite Park at Torrance Municipal Airport. During his lifetime, Ralph had a passion for flying. He was selected for the Wright Brothers Pilot Award by the FAA. Ralph had three (deceased) siblings and is survived by his sister, Theresa, of Marion, Iowa, nieces and nephews and his wife, Phyllis. In lieu of flowers, donations are subjected to: Western Museum of Flight 3315 Airport Dr. Torrance, CA 90505-6512

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latimes.com/guestbooks
Los Angeles Times

GORDON, Albert

April 22, 1932 - January 18, 2023

Albert Gordon passed away January 18, 2023, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He passed away after a long illness, suffering from dementia. He was a friend to everyone he met. He was born in Butte, Montana on April 22, 1932, the youngest of three boys to the late Charles H. Gordon and Jeanette Stoll. Albert was raised in Butte and graduated from Butte High School in 1950. After high school, he attended college in Dillon and did a semester at Cal Berkeley. He married his high school sweetheart, Delores Crossman at the Finlen Hotel on October 5, 1952. Together they had three children (Jon, Tamara and Chuck).

Shortly after marriage, he joined the United States Army and served from 1952-1954. After active duty he was in the Army Reserve for eight years, and while living in Los Angeles he attended UCLA. After attending UCLA, he managed and maintained professor's retirement portfolios.

Albert and Delores divorced in 1971. Albert married Lillian Friemann in 1974, and they resided in Santa Monica, CA until her death in 2019. After Lillian's death, he moved with his daughter and son-in-law to North Carolina.

In addition to his three children, Albert was grandpa to Jenna Argent, Matthew Salo, and Daniel Gordon. He also leaves behind eight great-grandchildren.

Albert is preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers, and numerous family members buried in both Butte and Los Angeles.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM Monday, January 23, 2023, at Riverview Memorial Gardens, Spring Lake, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a Jewish organization of your choice.

Services entrusted to Adcock Funeral Home, Spring Lake, North Carolina

JEFFRIES, Thomas Little

February 19, 1937 - January 13, 2023

Thomas Little Jeffries ("Chico") was born on February 19, 1937 to Louise and Alerton Jeffries. His early years were spent in Newport Beach, California, with his brother Jerry and sister Judy.

He moved to Los Angeles, attended Harvard School, followed by Berkshire High School in Massachusetts. His college years were spent at Stanford University, where he joined the notorious "Zeta Psi" Fraternity.

In 1959 Tom married Carol Thomas (1937-2022), they had three children. Jennifer Louise (1960 – 1989), Juliane (1962) and William Thomas (1966). The family lived and enjoyed their home in Hancock Park, until their marriage ended in 1980.

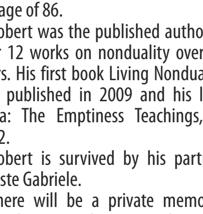
Tom spent most of his career in the family business, Jeffries Banknote (founded in 1894). He became CEO of Pandick Technologies once the company was sold until he retired in 1980. Tom was the president of the Jonathan Club in 1983 where his grandfather (William Jeffries) was president and later founded the Jonathan Beach Club.

In 1983 Tom married Mary Ferguson Hall, they resided in Pacific Palisades together until his death. Mary and Tom biked all over the world for 17 years, traveled to Africa, India, China, Japan, and Europe. They hiked, skied and fly fished in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Tom was an avid golfer,

hunter, member of "Rancheros" and rode with friends for years. He traveled the world, enjoying all his daredevil hobbies and even fished in Kamchatka Russia with his son Billy.

Tom is survived by his wife Mary of 40 years, children Julianne Halley and Bill Jeffries, stepchildren Key and Tucker Hall. His five grandchildren, Thomas, Tyler, Adrien Halley, John Beckett and Max Jeffries, step granddaughter, Lola Hall and sister Judy Mertz.

We all wonder what terrifying adventures "Chico" has scheduled for Heaven.



WOLFE, Robert

Author and teacher of nonduality, Robert Wolfe, died as he wished at home on Saturday, December 31st at the age of 86.

Robert was the published author of over 12 works on nonduality over 13 years. His first book Living Nonduality was published in 2009 and his last, Ajata: The Emptiness Teachings, in 2022.

Robert is survived by his partner, Celeste Gabriele.

There will be a private memorial for Robert in February on his 87th birthday.

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LYNCH, Donald J.

Don passed away peacefully at the age of 93 at his home in San Luis Obispo, CA on December 22, 2022, with family by his side. Don was born in his beloved Chicago in 1929. He was the son of Southside Chicago Irish parents, Thomas Joseph and Olive Marie (Gleason) Lynch and was the youngest of four children: Margaret Jean (Lynch) O'Gorman, Thomas J. Lynch, Jr. and Richard J. Lynch, all of whom preceded him in death.

Don attended St. Gall Grammar School and the De La Salle Institute for high school, where he was the Valedictorian of his Class of 1947. He was an active and enthusiastic Boy Scout and camp counselor into his early 20s, and he remained close friends with his fellow scouts his entire life. Don won a citywide competition for a full college scholarship to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) where he was manager of the weekly newspaper and President of the Student Body. Don earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from IIT in 1951. Upon graduation, Don began his long career in the aerospace and defense industry at the Ford Aircraft Engine Division plant in Chicago. While there, Don attended Loyola University Law School at night, earning a JD degree in 1956.

While at IIT, Don met and fell in love with the beautiful & brilliant Virginia Joan Long. Don & Joan met at a National Student Association event in Champaign, IL. Don's persistent pursuit of Joan finally paid off, and they were married in Richland, WA in 1952. Don & Joan are parents to 10 children who miss him dearly.

In 1957, the young family moved with their first four children from Chicago to Stamford, CT, where Don worked for the consulting firm Booz Allen and Hamilton in New York City. After Booz Allen, Don returned to the aerospace industry, working for Defense and NASA contractor American Bosch Arma Corp on Long Island, NY. Having added a fifth child In Connecticut, the family moved to Huntington, NY, where they had three more children. In the winter of 1964, as the Beatles landed in NYC, the Lynches took off by train for California as Don had been transferred to Los Angeles. Don was later hired by TRW, Inc, a major Defense and NASA contractor. Don enjoyed a highly successful career at TRW, working on a wide range of projects from the Apollo missions, including the critical Lunar Module Descent Engine used to land on the Moon, through the Space Shuttle era.

In Hollywood, Don & Joan had the last two of their 10 children. They became active supporters of the Immaculate Heart religious community, whose embrace of Vatican II reforms was opposed by the then LA Cardinal. The Immaculate Heart Community also ran their own girls high school in Hollywood, and all six of their daughters attended Immaculate Heart High School, where Joan later had a long career as a guidance and college counselor.

In 1994, Don & Joan retired, leaving Hollywood for San Luis Obispo. In SLO they became very active in their community and local church and Don joined a championship trivia team (Mary & The Three Wiseman). Their new neighborhood was very welcoming, and they made more wonderful friends.

Don & Joan shared a special talent for making and keeping friends. Their yearly Christmas card collection is evidence of friendships that stretch over many decades. Don's epic sense of humor, incredible work ethic, and intelligence were renowned, and he maintained his love of shopping, catalogs and unrelenting search for bargains into his 90's, especially when it came to California wine and Trader Joe's. Don could and did fix almost anything. He continued to cheer on his beloved Lakers and Notre Dame, enjoy classic American movies and British detective series, and was a kind and gracious host to the many visitors they received in SLO. Don worked hard at figuring out how to live forever, and dedicated time to researching his medical conditions.

Don's death, while sudden, was not unexpected, as he suffered from heart disease the last several years of his life. Luckily, son Terrence and daughter Mary Pat live in SLO and have provided wonderful, loving, patient care and support to both Don & Joan. Joan's love and Mary Pat and Terrence's care contributed substantially to Don's long life, and our family is forever grateful and indebted to them.

Don is survived by Joan, his wife of 70 years, and his 10 children who he loved immensely: Larry (Charlene), Maureen, Rita (Bill Speck), Terrence, Mary Pat, Tom, Jack (Ilsa Branch), Nora (Jack MacKenzie), Ann (Robin Mohar) and Kate (Mark Castonguay). He is also survived by his 17 grandchildren: Sean (Ana), Aaron (April), Max (Melissa) and Charlie (Mya Kahler) Lynch; Cary (Claire Williams) and Hayden Speck; Nicolette Lynch (Andrew Benson); Ryan (Hannah Franz), Matthew, John and Michael Mesick; Maddy and Maggie MacKenzie; Eli and Owen Lynch; Jack and Christopher Castonguay; and seven great-grandchildren (so far); his Chicago Lynch nieces and nephews, with special note of his sister Jean's sons, Dick (Kathy) and Mike O'Gorman (Suzanne) to whom he was especially close.

A mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 am on January 28, 2023, at the Nativity of Our Lady Church in San Luis Obispo, reception to follow. For further information, please see https://www.reisfamilymortuary.net/obituaries/Donald-Lynch-3/#!/TributeWall. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a charitable contribution in honor of Don to Immaculate Heart Middle & High School, 5515 Franklin Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028, or to the San Luis Obispo Food Bank, 1180 Kendall Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

KAWAMOTO, LOUISE

March 5, 1917 - January 8, 2023

Louise Aiko Kawamoto passed away of natural causes on January 8, 2023, she was 105. Born in 1917 in Los Angeles, CA, she was the second of eight children born to Rikimatsu and Konobu Horii, who were originally from Hiroshima, Japan. Born Aiko Horii on March 5, 1917, she grew up on the family's farm in Redondo Beach, CA, and graduated from Redondo Union High School in 1935.

In 1942, the Horii family was ordered to relocate to the Gila River Internment Camp in Arizona. It was there that she met and married photographer and teacher George Kawamoto. George was a graduate of USC in cinematography, and after the war the couple moved to Cleveland, OH, and eventually to Detroit, MI, where they opened their own photo studio. With George taking the photos, and Louise running the business and office, Kawamoto Studios became very well known. Clients included Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Lord & Taylor and Hudson department stores, the J. Walter Thompson ad agency, and many others.

The beautiful couple were regulars in the Detroit social circles. They were best friends with Henry Ford II and real estate developer Lawrence LoPatin. Articles in the Detroit Free Press highlighted their Mies van der Rohe Mid-century modern glass house, their Japanese garden, and their film developing for the mysterious Howard Hughes.

After retiring in 1989, they relocated to Escondido, CA, and soon had a new group of loyal friends. George died in 1995. The couple had no children, but in Southern California, Louise was able to spend time with her siblings and their many children and grandchildren. Louise maintained her style, wit and savvy (and a full-head of beautiful hair) until she passed away just two months shy of 106. She was predeceased by her two sisters Helen (Jack) Okano and Mary (Kazuo) Kajiyama, and her brothers George (Nancy), Howard (Shiz, Paula), Jim (Sally, Jeanette), Harry (Chita) and Robert (Mary) Horii. Her last surviving brothers, Robert and Harry, died in 2021 and 2022. She is survived by her three sisters-in-laws, Paula, Jeanette and Mary, and by many beloved nieces, nephews, godchildren and their offspring.

www.fukuimortuary.com
(213) 626-0441

KEIL, Hendrik C. (Henk)

Henk Keil, 79, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2023 in West Hills, California. Henk was born in Utrecht, Netherlands on July 27, 1943, and moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1982. He was a computer systems analyst and programmer. Henk was predeceased by his wife Monica. He is survived by his three children: Paulien (Scott) Groll, Ron Keil, and Andre (Lisa) Keil. He was also the beloved Opa to grandchildren Hannah and Jacob Groll, Sami, Finn and Benjamin Keil. At his request, no services were held. The family will hold a celebration of his life at a future date.

MEYERHOFF, Susan

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

SCHIFFMAN, Samuel

Samuel Schiffman, 93 passed away on January 8, 2023, to join his beloved wife Bernice. He is survived by his daughter Gail Parker (Barry); sons Joel (Elaine), and Dana (Christina); grandchildren David Parker, Jeremy, Marisa Colton (Sean), Jessica Altman (Andy), and Joseph. Sam had a long career in the garment industry as the owner of Susan-Deb, a manufacturer of formals, bridesmaid and cocktail dresses. After selling the business he enjoyed a second career as a realtor in the San Fernando Valley. Sam adored people, always focusing on their best qualities. He was universally loved and respected.

STOLYARSKY, Tamara

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

WAKEMAN, Jane Prescott

December 2, 1933 - January 11, 2023

This beautiful Lady was a resident of Balboa Island California for over 40 years.

She is survived by her husband, Mark, and daughter Carolyn and son Kenny and Step daughter Jackie, plus 3 Grand Daughters plus 8 Great Grand kids.

A special thanks to her caregiver, Pricila, who did a loving and marvelous job for 12 years looking after Jane.

YUBA, Anthony Toneo

September 11, 1940 - December 22, 2022

Anthony Toneo Yuba, 82, of Altadena, CA peacefully passed away December 22 at home. Born September 11, 1940 in Los Angeles, CA to George and Mary Yuba. He is survived by his wife Yoshiko and their three children, Timothy (Reena), Karianne (Scott) Johnson, and Todd (Kimberly). He is also survived by grandchildren, Sarah, Prescott, Olivia, Evan and Quinn and sister, Kathy (Bruce) Fujikawa and brother, Greg (Cecelia).

Memorial service on Friday, Jan. 27, 11:00 a.m. at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Gate 17, at Hillside Chapel.

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The year that was 1958

First transatlantic jet passenger service started by BOAC, with a New York to London route.

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THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Mostly sunny, becoming breezy in the valleys: A storm center tracking south through the Great Basin into western Arizona will cause partly cloudy skies today. Winds will pick up in the afternoon across the valleys. Strong Santa Ana gusts between 50 and 70 mph will develop tonight and continue into Monday, with possible power outages.

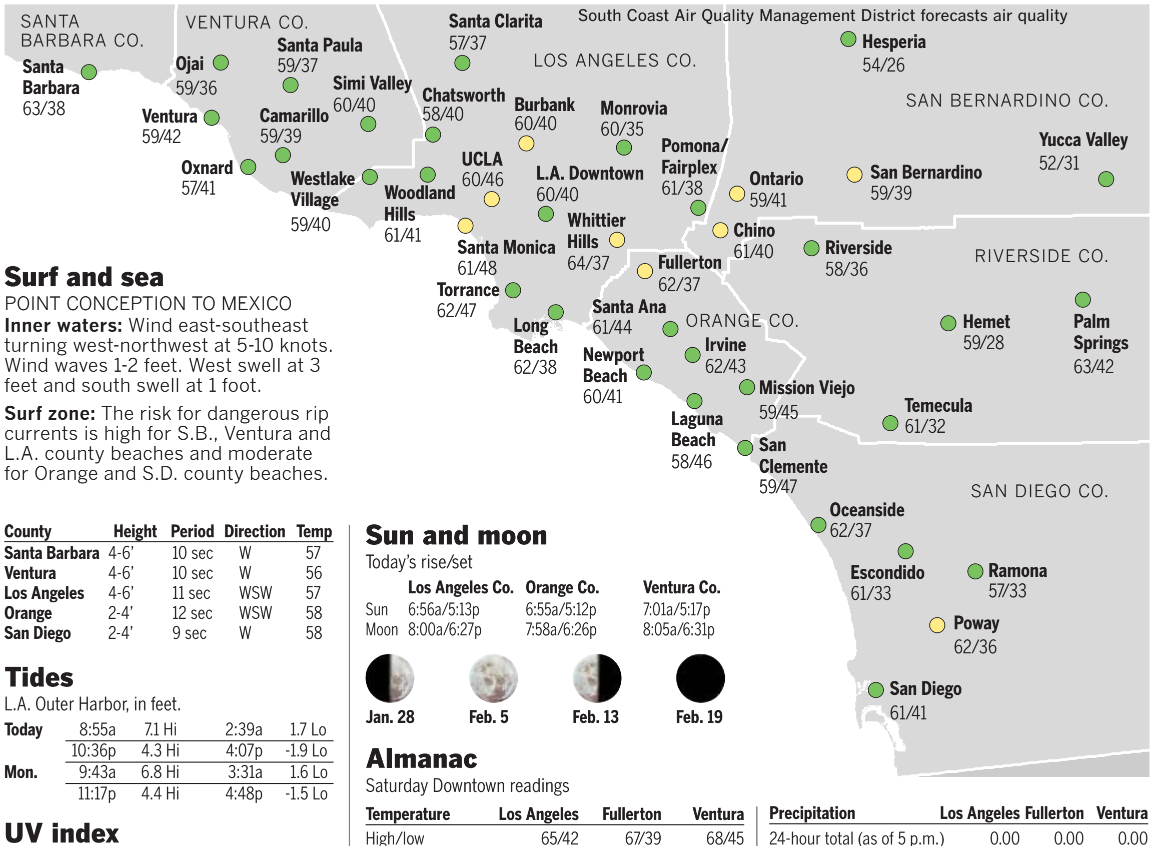
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	60|40 Partly sunny		59|41 Partly sunny		61|48 Partly sunny		40|12 Mostly sunny		63|42 Mostly sunny; cool	
Monday	Lots of sun	62/42	Sunny; windy	59/40	Lots of sun	65/42	Sunny	29/13	Sunny	63/45
Tuesday	Lots of sun	62/44	Sunny	65/42	Sunny; cool	61/40	Not as cold	42/17	Sunny	71/48
Wednesday	Sunny	66/44	Sunny	68/46	Sunny	66/48	Sunny; cool	45/21	Sunny	74/50
Thursday	Sunny	70/45	Sunny	65/45	Sunny	69/49	Sunny; chilly	39/21	Sunny	72/51

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind east-southeast turning west-northwest at 5-10 knots. Wind waves 1-2 feet. West swell at 3 feet and south swell at 1 foot.

Surf zone: The risk for dangerous rip currents is high for S.B., Ventura and L.A. county beaches and moderate for Orange and S.D. county beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	4-6'	10 sec	W	57
Ventura	4-6'	10 sec	W	56
Los Angeles	4-6'	11 sec	WSW	57
Orange	2-4'	12 sec	WSW	58
San Diego	2-4'	9 sec	W	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	8:55a	7.1 Hi	2:39a	1.7 Lo
	10:36p	4.3 Hi	4:07p	-1.9 Lo
Mon.	9:43a	6.8 Hi	3:31a	1.6 Lo
	11:17p	4.4 Hi	4:48p	-1.5 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45	Phoenix, 45
Los Angeles, 45	San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:56a/5:13p	6:55a/5:12p	7:01a/5:17p
Moon	8:00a/6:27p	7:58a/6:26p	8:05a/6:31p

Jan. 28 Feb. 5 Feb. 13 Feb. 19

Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	65/42	67/39	68/45
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	70/47	72/45	68/50
Record high/date	81/2013	86/2013	82/2013
Record low/date	32/1937	35/2006	31/1962

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.94	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	6.19	5.06	6.90
Humidity (high/low)	82/26	88/24	71/27

California cities

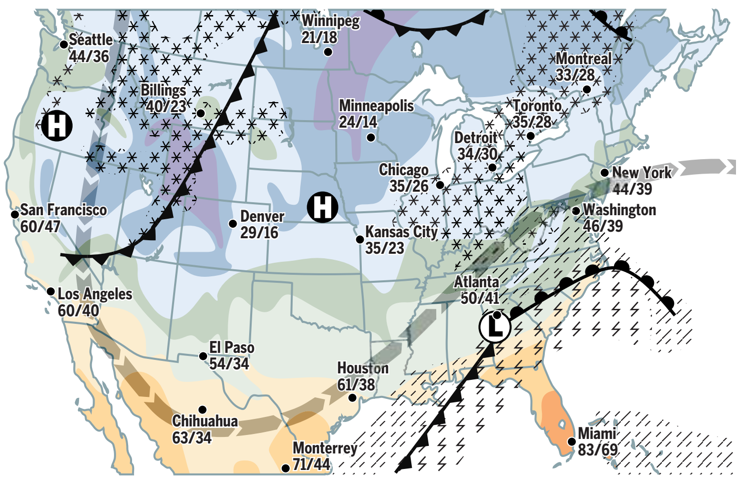
	Saturday			Today		Monday	
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	68	43	--	62	38	65	41
Avalon/Catalina	xx	xx	xx	55	44	56	47
Bakersfield	55	36	--	53	36	53	32
Barstow	56	31	--	56	33	52	33
Big Bear Lake	46	11	--	40	12	29	13
Bishop	54	17	--	44	21	45	24
Burbank	63	36	--	60	40	64	40
Camarillo	68	37	--	59	39	64	40
Chatsworth	66	40	--	58	40	61	41
Chino	64	34	--	61	40	61	35
Compton	64	40	--	62	39	63	40
Dana Point	62	39	--	58	48	63	42
Death Valley	68	45	--	64	45	65	44
Del Mar	65	44	--	60	41	64	42
Escondido	65	37	--	61	33	64	32
Eureka	54	33	--	54	36	57	38
Fallbrook	65	43	--	60	37	62	34
Fresno	55	35	--	53	35	57	34
Fullerton	67	39	--	62	37	64	40
Hemet	62	31	--	59	28	59	27
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	54	26	47	27
Huntington Beach	67	38	--	60	39	64	43
Idyllwild	49	23	--	44	24	42	29
Irvine	63	42	--	62	43	65	40
L.A. D'ntown/USC	65	42	--	60	40	62	42
L.A. Int'l. Airport	62	41	--	59	45	63	45
Laguna Beach	64	38	--	58	46	62	42
Lancaster	54	25	--	55	25	52	25
Long Beach	66	42	--	62	38	66	42
Mammoth Lakes	27	-17	--	27	9	27	16
Mission Viejo	66	39	--	59	45	61	40
Monrovia	63	43	--	60	35	61	42
Monterey	59	33	--	56	38	59	38
Mt. Wilson	49	33	--	40	24	39	34
Needles	58	40	--	57	39	56	41
Newport Beach	62	45	--	60	41	62	43
Northridge	64	38	--	62	42	65	43
Oakland	56	33	--	61	43	61	39
Oceanside	64	36	--	62	37	66	33
Ojai	67	29	--	59	36	60	38
Ontario	63	35	--	59	41	61	38
Palm Springs	68	42	--	63	42	63	45
Pasadena	66	41	--	59	37	62	41
Paso Robles	59	30	--	57	28	56	28
Redding	55	29	--	56	43	62	43
Riverside	60	28	--	58	36	57	31
Sacramento	55	31	--	57	38	60	33
San Bernardino	64	36	--	59	39	58	40
San Diego	63	41	--	61	41	63	42
San Francisco	57	40	--	60	47	62	43
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	64	39	62	40
San Jose	57	33	--	59	38	60	35
San Luis Obispo	65	33	--	61	35	61	34
Santa Ana	66	42	--	61	44	65	44
Santa Barbara	60	36	--	63	38	62	37
Santa Clarita	60	38	--	57	37	60	39
Santa Monica Pier	63	39	--	61	48	65	42
Santa Paula	65	37	--	59	37	64	36
Santa Rosa	59	30	--	61	36	66	35
Simi Valley	63	45	--	60	40	62	39
Tahoe Valley	39	-3	--	29	16	31	17
Temecula	62	33	--	61	32	61	33
Thousand Oaks	64	46	--	59	39	62	42
Torrance	64	36	--	62	47	64	42
UCLA	xx	xx	xx	60	46	65	43
Van Nuys	67	41	--	61	44	65	42
Ventura	68	45	--	59	42	57	45
Whittier Hills	64	42	--	64	37	63	38
Woodland Hills	68	35	--	61	41	64	41
Wrightwood	43	22	--	46	23	35	31
Yorba Linda	67	41	--	62	40	58	38
Yosemite Valley	43	22	--	37	21	40	30

Today in North America

Snow across the Great Lakes and Northeast: A storm tracking across the central Appalachians will spread snow across Ohio and Michigan into northern Pennsylvania and upstate New York. Snow will be heavy enough to delay plans with slippery and treacherous travel.

Pressure: Ⓛ Low Ⓗ High Warm Front Cold Front Jet Stream Trough

Temps -0 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100+ Rain T-storm Snow Ice



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 86 in Immokalee, Fla. **Low** –18 in Randolph, Utah

	Saturday			Today		
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	32	30	.02	39	33	Cy
Albuquerque	40	26	--	41	27	Pc
Anchorage	30	27	.04	29	24	Sn
Aspen	22	8	.03	28	10	Cy
Atlanta	51	40	.03	50	41	Sh
Austin	61	50	Tr	62	34	Su
Baltimore	45	35	--	46	39	R
Boise	32	15	--	34	17	Pc
Boston	33	29	Tr	42	36	Cy
Buffalo	33	30	.01	38	31	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	30	23	.02	36	32	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	55	49	--	66	51	Ts
Charlotte	51	36	--	44	40	R
Chicago	33	28	Tr	35	26	Sn
Cincinnati	36	31	--	37	31	Sn
Cleveland	35	32	Tr	36	32	Sn
Columbia, S.C.	48	43	--	50	44	R
Columbus	34	32	Tr	34	31	Sn
Dallas/Ft.Worth	59	45	Tr	55	34	Su
Denver	28	12	.03	29	16	Cy
Detroit	34	32	--	34	30	Sn
El Paso	52	28	--	54	34	Su
Eugene	46	32	.01	47	29	Cy
Fort Myers	85	69	--	81	66	Pc
Hartford	38	33	--	42	33	Cy
Honolulu	84	77	Tr	82	67	Su
Houston	53	48	.12	61	38	Pc
Indianapolis	33	30	--	37	29	Sn
Jacksonville, Fla.	58	40	.01	77	53	Ts
Kansas City	38	28	.03	35	23	Cy
Knoxville	50	28	--	47	37	Sh
Las Vegas	52	35	--	50	37	W
Louisville	44	35	--	41	35	Sn
Medford	44	24	Tr	47	29	Pc
Memphis	53	32	--	50	35	Cy
Miami	83	67	--	83	69	Pc
Milwaukee	32	29	--	35	27	Sn
Minneapolis	24	17	Tr	24	14	Cy
Nashville	51	28	--	48	37	Sh
New Orleans	61	53	.07	62	45	Ts
New York	41	38	Tr	44	39	R
Norfolk	47	38	--	55	44	R
Oklahoma City	58	40	.04	45	26	Su
Omaha	34	20	--	28	17	Cy
Orlando	73	59	Tr	81	62	Cy
Philadelphia	44	38	--	46	40	R
Phoenix	59	38	--	60	37	Su
Pittsburgh	34	30	.01	37	31	Sn
Portland, Ore.	47	32	.09	47	37	Pc
Providence	35	30	Tr	44	37	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	51	34	--	44	41	R
Reno	38	13	--	34	18	Pc
Richmond	50	30	--	44	40	R
St. Louis	44	24	--	40	30	Sn
Salt Lake City	33	23	--	29	18	Sn
Seattle	43	32	.13	44	36	Pc
Tampa	70	61	.01	76	61	Sh
Tucson	56	30	--	64	36	Su
Tulsa	45	36	.03	42	24	Cy
Washington, D.C.	44	39	--	46	39	R
Wichita	39	34	.25	40	20	Pc

World

City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	85	67	--	85	68	Su
Amsterdam	36	30	--	38	33	Pc
Athens	62	43	.18	62	52	Sh
Bangkok	90	71	--	92	71	Su
Barcelona	54	34	--	52	35	Su
Berlin	37	28	.37	35	31	Sn
Cabo San Lucas	79	50	--	77	47	Cy
Cairo	69	52	--	69	52	Su
Dubai	80	63	--	79	60	Su
Dublin	48	39	.10	52	46	Sh
Havana	86	59	--	85	63	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	93	75	--	92	76	R
Hong Kong	68	58	.02	71	65	Pc
Istanbul	63	52	--	60	47	Hz
Jerusalem	62	38	--	63	47	Su
Johannesburg	88	61	--	88	58	Su
Kuala Lumpur	86	75	.19	88	73	R
Lima	77	69	.54	76	68	Cy
London	43	28	--	40	25	Su
Madrid	52	36	Tr	48	25	Su
Mecca	89	66	--	85	67	Su
Mexico City	76	47	--	77	41	Su
Montreal	30	21	.06	33	28	Cy
Moscow	30	29	--	29	22	Cy
Mumbai	82	72	--	84	65	Hz
New Delhi	70	50	--	70	50	Hz
Paris	39	34	.02	36	33	Cy
Prague	30	27	.37	33	29	Sn
Rome	46	40	--	49	33	Cy
Seoul	33	14	Tr	42	25	Sf
Singapore	88	76	.30	86	77	R
Taipei City	70	59	.08	71	62	Pc
Tokyo	46	40	--	47	40	Cy
Vancouver	40	36	.25	43	36	Cy
Vienna	34	30	.24	32	30	Sf

Key: Su sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

AccuWeather | Discover our app

His long and wonderful life is an inspiration

[**Lopez,** from B1]
don't know if I'd have the courage or desire to last into triple digits. The privilege of aging does not come without compromise and loss, and I doubt I'd be very good at either.

UCLA psychologist Stephen Sideroff says that as the population of aging people swells, we'd do well to consider how we live in addition to how long we live.

"We don't want to simply extend old age if it means more years of disability and dementia," Sideroff said. "Increasing one's health span, unlike life span, means staying healthy and functioning ... as long as possible, and reducing the time at the end of life where you are disabled in one way or another."

Morrie is blessedly beating the odds, still relatively healthy and sharp. But the man who used to enjoy world travel and touring Los Angeles, by bus and on foot, has physical limitations now. He's lost much of his hearing and has around-the-clock care from a team of aides.

Steve, who is approaching 80, and his sister Judith Hansen, 81, watch their father turn the pages of yet another calendar and find themselves reflecting on their own longevity, quality of life and the costs of growing old.

"When you see someone you know and love getting old, and you see what's happening to them, that opens up discussions I'm having with people my age and older," Steve said. His own short-term memory isn't what it used to be, Steve told me, and he's dealing with prostate health issues, like so many men his age.

Even for those who live a healthful lifestyle, luck is key, and decline is guaranteed as you age, and Steve finds himself reflecting on the nonnegotiable nature of mortality.

"An important topic everyone wants to shove under the rug is the cost of keeping somebody alive," he said. "And do they really want to live?"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
109

Family photo

MORRIE Markoff at his birthday party. The New York native keeps adapting to change, even embracing it.

Morrie certainly does, and luckily he saved and invested well, and an inheritance helped pad the retirement fund. That's a good thing, because his in-home care costs roughly $14,000 a month, Judy said. At that price, most retirees won't have enough money to get to 89, let alone 109. So where will they go, and who will care for them?

"There are so many parts to this whole thing of getting old," said Judith, who lives in Seattle. "I don't want to have to depend on someone 24/7. What I want is some sort of group living ... where everyone is connected somehow."

Steve, who lives on the Westside and visits his father once a week, has a similar view.

"Do I want to live like Dad, who's kind of trapped in his condo? I don't know," he said. "I might rather be in a place where a bunch of other people are living, even though a lot of them would be dying every day."

Morrie used to live in a nursing facility in Silver Lake, along with his wife, Betty, who died in September 2019 at the age of 103. Then came COVID, and Steve and Judith pulled Morrie out when the virus tore through the facility, killing a number of residents.

But Morrie, a New York native, just keeps adapting to change, and even embracing it. The world, in all its madness and glory, fascinates and infuriates him, just as it always has. He gets up in the morning and reads the L.A. Times, and later in the day he watches the news on television.

"He's thinking all the time," Judith said.

And often writing down whatever pops into his head. A couple of years ago, when I told Morrie I was writing a book about aging and retirement and asked for his thoughts, he said he'd prefer to answer by letter. Not long thereafter, a fat envelope arrived at my house. Inside I found three separate, folded, handwritten letters answering my questions.

"He has this intense curiosity about everything, and to me, that's what keeps him going," Steve said.

During Steve's weekly visits, the routine was for Morrie to hand over his writings, and Steve would have them typed up and added to Morrie's blog, which covered everything from a fond memory of a favorite waitress at Canter's Deli to a withering indictment of Vladimir Putin. A former caretaker once told me Morrie was up in the middle of the night, writing about the George Floyd murder.

"One day I picked up 42 handwritten yellow pages from the previous seven days," Steve said. "In handwriting you could actually read."

Steve noted that Morrie is writing less often of late, and he's a bit concerned about that. But when I dropped by Morrie's 109th birthday party on Jan. 11, he looked pretty much like the guy I had last seen at his 108th birthday party.

Morrie wears headphones, and I spoke into a microphone so he could hear me. I congratulated him, and we caught up on mutual friends — this and that. He took my hand in his — it was a good, solid squeeze — and introduced me to his caretaker, Rosario "Charito" Reyes.

"His level of coping with frustration in the face of life events is enormous," Reyes said. "He enjoys every breath."

Steve and his wife, Jadwiga, were at the party , along with Morrie's granddaughter Ellen and grandson Chris. The family held up gold balloons in the shape of a 1, 0 and 9. They posed for pictures with the blue-eyed birthday boy, who smiled and gave a thumbs up.

Before he'd finished his lunch, Morrie wanted to get to the main event. Reyes helped him grab hold of his walker, and Morrie had the gang fall behind him in a conga line. He circled the table counting out the rhythm — one, two, three, with a kick of the left foot. One, two, three, with a kick of the right foot.

Steve later told me his father is not inclined toward philosophical conversations about aging. He is more comfortable polishing a memory, offering an unvarnished opinion on the news of the day or penning a poem to Betty as if to prove that absence truly does make the heart grow fonder.

I took a spin through Morrie's recent blog posts and found both a celebration of life and a nod to mortality. After he's departed, he says in one, "Don't cry for me. I've had a full life." In another he says, "I hope in the next life I have the same family."

Last August, he wrote this:

"As a practical man, I know at the age of this writing, 108, I don't have far to go.

"Like Betty, I hope to leave this world with a smile on my face.

"My daughter Judy says, 'Dad, you've lived some life.'

"I sure have.

"Like it or not.

"I will leave footprints in the shifting sands of time.

"Millions have done so before me.

"Good luck.

"Morrie."

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Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

‘He was a Trojan until his dying breath’

BILL PLASCHKE

Nurses removed his USC jersey, unclasped his USC watch, slipped off his USC shoes.

Charles White seemingly was ending his tumultuous, 64-year journey through life with no visible connection to the school that was his soul.

But as the Trojans’ Heisman Trophy winner was taking his last breaths in a Newport Beach hospital, his ex-wife and his daughter pulled out a phone.

One of the last senses to leave the body at the end of life is hearing, and they wanted him to hear how much he had accomplished, how much he had impacted, how much he was loved.

They carefully nestled the phone on the pillow next to his ear and played, “Conquest!”

When Charles White expired on Jan. 11 at 3:21 p.m., he did so while accom-

[See **Plaschke,** D7]

Allen J. Schaben L.A. Times

CHARLES WHITE was always in his USC gear. The Heisman Trophy winner died Jan. 11 at 64.

Leonard clawing back to old form

His resurgence has helped keep Clippers afloat despite their defensive struggles.

By Andrew Greif

DALLAS — For all of the training-camp discussion about whether the Clippers boasted the NBA’s deepest roster, it obscured what the team knew to be the season’s more basic truth.

No matter how many switchable wings or shooters on the roster, the Clippers’ potential was tied to the capabilities of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, the franchise cornerstones around whom this season’s offense and defense were tailored.

On Friday in San Antonio, George played one of the best games of his career as a ballhandler, his 16 points and 12 assists taking a backseat to his most unexpected contribution — zero turnovers, for a star averaging 3.3 of them since joining the Clippers in 2019. Coach Tyronn Lue referred to George as the team’s point guard.

Leonard scored 36

[See **Clippers,** D6]

NO. 11 ARIZONA 58, NO. 5 UCLA 52

Photographs by Rick Scuteri Associated Press

ADEM BONA dives for the ball behind Arizona forward Azuolas Tubelis at McKale Center. Bona helped the Bruins whittle down a 12-point deficit to four with two minutes remaining, but the rally fell incomplete as UCLA took its first loss in two months.

Streak runs into brick wall

Bruins’ 14-game tear ends in bad shooting as Cronin cites lack of heart

By Ben Bolch

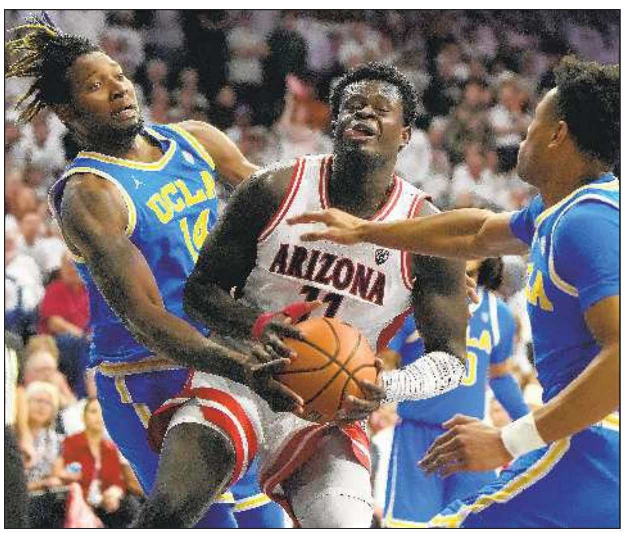
TUCSON — Shots don’t fall, fine. Mick Cronin can live with that.

Just keep grinding away on the other end of the court. Get your hand on the ball. Snag a steal. Start a fast break that ends in easy points to compensate for a sagging offense.

UCLA did none of that until it was too late Saturday during its biggest showdown of the season.

Even a late flurry of steals as part of four consecutive Arizona turnovers could not save the fifth-ranked Bruins during a 58-52 loss to the 11th-ranked Wildcats at an increasingly boisterous McKale Center.

Cronin didn’t like anything he saw from a team that lost for the first time in two months, halting a 14-game winning streak that was the longest in the nation among major-conference teams.



WILDCATS CENTER Oumar Ballo attempts to drive between Kenneth Nwuba (14) and Jaylen Clark.

“At UCLA, we try to play with heart and intestinal fortitude and I don’t think we played that way,” Cronin said after the Bruins fell to 17-3 overall and 8-1 in the Pac-12 Conference. “I think we were offensive-sensitive all day, so I’m not impressed with our defense at all today. I could care less what the final score is. I didn’t think we played hard until the game was over.”

It was only UCLA’s second loss in four seasons under Cronin when holding an opponent under 60 points, the other coming during a 54-52 setback against USC in March 2020 that required Jonah Mathews’ buzzer-beating three-pointer.

Cronin’s displeasure with his defense was reflected in Arizona (17-3, 6-3) getting layups on 13 of its 19 made shots and the Bruins having only six deflections at halftime.

“We tried to pick it up in the second half, but I think by that time it was too

[See **UCLA,** D8]

NFL PLAYOFFS :: DIVISIONAL ROUND

This team looks to cash in for past Bills

Buffalo has sights on Super Bowl to repay beloved veterans who lost in four straight.

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

It doesn’t feel like 30 years.

Not to Jim Kelly, Steve Tasker, Marv Levy or other members of the Buffalo Bills who three decades ago made it to four Super Bowls in a row yet didn’t win one.

To them, the years have whistled past with the screaming velocity of a Josh Allen spiral.

But they are fans now, revered members of the Bills Mafia, cheering on a team that has a good chance of completing what their forefathers did not.

The Bills play host to Cincinnati on Sunday in the AFC divisional round of the NFL playoffs. It was at this stage last season when Buffalo lost to Kansas City in an epic 42-36 overtime thriller, a game so breathtaking — yet ultimately

[See **NFL,** D5]

Jeffrey T. Barnes Associated Press

JIM KELLY, left, led the Bills to four straight Super Bowls in the 1990s, but Josh Allen hopes to be the quarterback to finally lead the team to victory in that game.

RESULTS

AFC

No. 1 Kansas City 27,
No. 4 Jacksonville 20

Chiefs advance: Hobbled Mahomes throws for 195 yards and two scores. **D5**

NFC

No. 1 Philadelphia 38,
No. 6 N.Y. Giants 7

Eagles breeze: Jalen Hurts erased any doubts about his shoulder by dominating. **D5**

TODAY’S GAMES

AFC

No. 3 Cincinnati at
No. 2 Buffalo
Noon, Channel 2

NFC

No. 5 Dallas at
No. 2 San Francisco
3:30 p.m., Channel 11

Swiatek ousted at Australian Open

No. 1-ranked player falls in straight sets to Elena Rybakina, who reaches quarterfinals for first time. **D3**

Reliving ‘bizarre’ finish at Farmers

Luke List and Will Zalatoris reflect on their one-hole playoff in run-up to tournament at Torrey Pines. **D3**

Kings’ trip starts with a loss

They lose one-goal lead in the third period in 5-3 loss to Predators as Pheonix Copley is pulled again. **D4**

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 22	MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26
LAKERS	at Portland 6 SpecSN		CLIPPERS 7 TNT	SAN ANTONIO 7:30 SpecSN	
CLIPPERS	at Dallas 11:30 a.m. BSSC		at Lakers 7 TNT		SAN ANTONIO 7:30 BSSC
KINGS	at Chicago 4 BSW		at Philadelphia 4 BSW		
DUCKS			at Arizona 6 BSSC		at Colorado 6 BSW

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
11:30 a.m.	Clippers at Dallas	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 570, 1220
Noon	G League, College Park at Fort Wayne	**TV:** NBA
5:30 p.m.	Brooklyn at Golden State	**TV:** NBA
6 p.m.	Lakers at Portland	**TV:** SpecSN **R:** 710, 1330
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
9 a.m.	Michigan State at Indiana	**TV:** 2
9 a.m.	Butler at Connecticut	**TV:** 11
9 a.m.	Women, Davidson at Duquesne	**TV:** CBSSN
9 a.m.	Women, Massachusetts at Dayton	**TV:** ESPNU
9 a.m.	Women, Syracuse at Duke	**TV:** ACC
10 a.m.	Women, North Carolina State at Louisville	**TV:** 7
10 a.m.	Memphis at Cincinnati	**TV:** ESPN2
10 a.m.	Women, Wake Forest at Virginia Tech	**TV:** BSW
10 a.m.	Maryland at Purdue	**TV:** FS1
10 a.m.	Women, Kentucky at Mississippi State	**TV:** SEC
10 a.m.	Minnesota at Michigan	**TV:** Big Ten
11 a.m.	Women, Virginia at Notre Dame	**TV:** ACC
Noon	Temple at Houston	**TV:** ESPN
Noon	Women, Arkansas at South Carolina	**TV:** ESPN2
Noon	Women, Seton Hall at Marquette	**TV:** FS1
Noon	Women, Georgia at Texas A&M	**TV:** SEC
Noon	Oregon State at California	**TV:** Pac-12
Noon	Women, UCLA at Washington State	**TV:** Pac-12LA
1 p.m.	Women, Georgia Tech at North Carolina	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Women, Texas at Baylor	**TV:** ESPN2
2 p.m.	Women, Colorado at Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12
2 p.m.	Women, Wisconsin at Penn State	**TV:** Big Ten
3 p.m.	Washington State at Colorado	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	Women, Utah at California	**TV:** Pac-12
COLLEGE WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS		
4 p.m.	Michigan at Michigan State	**TV:** Big Ten
5 p.m.	Utah at Oklahoma	**TV:** ESPN
COLLEGE WRESTLING		
Noon	Iowa at Wisconsin	**TV:** Big Ten
GOLF		
11 a.m.	LPGA Tournament of Champions, final round	**TV:** 4
Noon	The American Express, final round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
11 a.m.	Pittsburgh at New Jersey	**TV:** NHL
4 p.m.	Kings at Chicago	**TV:** BSW, NHL **R:** iHeart
HORSE RACING		
11:30 a.m.	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** FS2
PRO FOOTBALL: NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS		
Noon	AFC, Cincinnati at Buffalo	**TV:** 2
3:30 p.m.	NFC, Dallas at San Francisco	**TV:** 11
SOCCER		
5 a.m.	Turkey, Besiktas at Kayserispor	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
5 a.m.	Spain, Girona at Villarreal	**TV:** ESPND
6 a.m.	England, Wolverhampton at Manchester City	**TV:** USA, KVEA
7 a.m.	Spain, Osasuna at Elche	**TV:** ESPND
8:30 a.m.	England, Manchester United at Arsenal	**TV:** 4, KVEA
9:30 a.m.	Spain, Getafe at Barcelona	**TV:** ESPND
9:30 a.m.	French Cup, Pau FC at Lille	**TV:** FS2, FOXD
9:30 a.m.	Mexico, Leon at Pumas UNAM	**R:** 1330
11:45 a.m.	Italy, Atalanta at Juventus	**TV:** CBSSN
Noon	Spain, Real Madrid at Atletico Club	**TV:** ESPND
Noon	French Cup, Lens at Brestois	**TV:** FOXD
2:30 p.m.	Mexico, Atlas at Queretaro	**TV:** TUDN
5 p.m.	Mexico, Juarez at Pachuca	**TV:** TUDN
TENNIS		
4 p.m.	Australian Open, fourth round	**TV:** ESPN2, ESPND
WINTER SPORTS: FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES		
2 p.m.	Men's hockey final, U.S. vs. Canada	**TV:** ESPN

Hudson navigating U.S. storm

Men's national team assistant leads camp amid controversy involving Berhalter.

By Kevin Baxter

When you're caught in a big storm, sometimes the best thing to do is try not to worry about the weather.

As acting coach of the men's national soccer team, Anthony Hudson is surrounded by dark, ominous storm clouds. And they're proving difficult to ignore.

Hours before Hudson presided over his first training session Saturday, U.S. Soccer confirmed that Brian McBride, the team's general manager, was out after three years. The status of Gregg Berhalter, the head coach who led the U.S. to its first World Cup in eight years, remains uncertain while the federation investigates a domestic violence incident from 1991.

In the eye of that storm stands Hudson, a former national team coach with Bahrain and New Zealand and an assistant on Berhalter's staff the last two years.

"There's no coaching course or anything, really, to guide you in moments like this," Hudson said. "This is a really different situation. Irrespective of the circumstance, I also have a job to do. I have a responsibility to help these players have a good camp, good experience. So I'm kind of just putting myself to the side, really, and doing what I think is the right thing."

No reason was given for McBride's departure, although it comes at the end of a tumultuous two-month stretch that saw the U.S. eliminated from the Qatar World Cup in the round of 16 before Berhalter became embroiled in a Shakespearean drama involving former U.S. team captain Claudio Reyna and his son Gio, a national team forward who was limited to 52 minutes in Qatar.

Claudio Reyna, best man at Berhalter's wedding, complained about his son's lack of playing time during the tournament. Then, after the World Cup, Berhalter gave a talk in which he said a player, whom he did not name, had become such a distraction in Qatar he was nearly sent home.

When several news outlets confirmed the player was Gio Reyna, Claudio's wife, Danielle, reacted by telling U.S. Soccer about a 31-year-old physical altercation involving Berhalter and his future wife, Rosalind, Danielle's college roommate at the time. The federation hired an Atlanta law firm to look into the situation, leaving Berhalter's future with U.S. Soccer in limbo while McBride, a teammate of both Berhalter and Reyna on two World Cup rosters, is out.

Meanwhile, the job of getting the focus back on soccer has fallen to Hudson, a 41-year-old who was born in the U.S., grew up in Britain, and has played and coached in both places. Hudson has called up 24 players — only 15 participated in Saturday's workout at Dignity Health Sports Park with the rest arriving over the next two days — for a weeklong training camp and friendlies against Serbia and Colombia.

"Look, it's been different for me. My role for a long time has been assistant coach, so I tend not to get into the, the outside noise and controversy," he said. "This might not sound believable, but I can assure you in my case right now, I'm literally not focused on anything other than the next two games."

The camp falls outside a FIFA competition window, which limited the players Hudson could call in; as a result, more than half come from MLS teams. Two others, forwards Brandon Vázquez and Alejandro Zendejas, are dual nationals who have played for teams in both the U.S. and Mexico.

But the roster also includes five veterans from the World Cup team, and Hudson and his players are hoping to keep the momentum established in the tournament.

"We're excited to kind of build upon what happened in the World Cup and what has kind of happened over the past four years," said Vancouver Whitecaps defender Julian Gressel, 29, named to the national team for the first time after securing U.S. citizenship last November. "Everyone's eager to kind of step in and make a name for themselves. And this is a great opportunity to do that."

Provided they can ignore the storm swirling around them.

"We're going to continue what we do on and off the field," Hudson said. "Obviously the delivery of it is going to look different and sound different. Gregg has a very specific way of working. I'm not Gregg. I can't be Gregg. I'll be myself.

"But certainly, the way we want to play and our principles of play, that's consistent."

LETTERS

Ready to pull the plug on Staley era

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

BRANDON STALEY guided the Chargers to the playoffs after a 6-6 start, but his decisions during their wild-card loss to Jacksonville have come into question.

Seeing the Chargers blow another meaningful game is like watching the movie "Groundhog Day." Same old Chargers. Again, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Richard D. Muir
San Marcos

::

Brandon Staley does not understand that one of the most important jobs of a head coach is to respond to game conditions by making on-field adjustments. How else to explain that opponents regularly, and dramatically, outperform the Chargers in the second half? It doesn't help that he spends each game focused on game calling, missing the big picture of the game flow.

Bill Bloomfield
Park City, Utah

::

When Staley was asked if he thought his job was in jeopardy, he answered, "No." Wow! Staley is lucky he is employed by an owner who has no concept of winning.

John C. Borrego
Safety Harbor, Fla.

::

Staley needs to go. He inexplicably plays his starters three quarters in a meaningless game. He loses Mike Williams in the process. He loses more receivers during the playoff game and Justin Herbert finds he is running low on targets. Face it, some coaches are meant to be coordinators and not head coaches.

Russell Hosaka
Torrance

::

Staley was the reason the Chargers didn't make the playoffs last year with his stupid playcalling. Staley is the reason Williams didn't play against Jacksonville. The Chargers had no deep threat in a one-point loss. He needs to be fired immediately. They cannot keep underachieving because of their coach.

Mike Lorraine
Simi Valley

::

The Chargers lost another game primarily because of another questionable call by coach Staley. With a few minutes to go in the first half, the Chargers had third down and inches to go. The obvious call was a Herbert sneak (success rate of almost 100%). A first down would have almost assured that Jacksonville would not get the ball back, considering the little time remaining. Worst case, the Chargers go into the locker room leading 27-0 with all the momentum. Despite this, Staley elects to call a "daring," risk-prone play. The play goes south, Jacksonville is given life, and the rest is history.

Bill Fado
Pacific Palisades

::

Readers' poll

We asked readers of our Sports Report newsletter "Should Brandon Staley remain coach of the Chargers?" After 1,777 votes, here are the results:

YES **34.9%**

NO **65.1%**

Staley is most certainly a fan of Clint Eastwood and spaghetti westerns with his sequel to "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." Now he needs to duplicate the ending and ride out of town.

Thomas Kelsey
Murrieta

::

Bye-bye, Staley. Maybe you can join the Lakers and consult with Rob Pelinka and Jeanie Buss. Time for Dean Spanos to step up and do what it takes to hire Sean Payton.

Steve Geary
Corona del Mar

::

I knew a Chargers coach would/should get fired after Saturday's loss to the Jaguars, I just didn't think it would be the offensive coordinator. I was thinking the (lack of defense) defensive coordinator and/or the head coach. They fired the offensive coordinator for his poor playcalling. The offense didn't give up 31 points, the defense did.

Russell Morgan
Carson

::

If the Chargers players really believe their current coach can take them to a championship game, only two things are possible: (1) they're delusional or (2) they don't like visiting Disneyland.

Jesse Guevara
Pico Rivera

Lakers showing some life?

It might seem like undue optimism given recent Lakers losses, but I like what I see with this team. In spite of heartbreaking defeats, they come back and fight hard every game. My hope is that such refusal to quit will temper this team as it continues to heal and improve.

Ron Richards
Los Angeles

::

So, LeBron James is frustrated by the Lakers' sub-.500 season. This is the same LeBron who is responsible for the Lakers' recruitment of Anthony Davis and Russell Westbrook; Davis has been available for fewer than 50% of the team's games, while the team has had trouble fully using Westbrook's unique talents until lately. James bears considerable responsibility for a roster that is filled with individuals "better suited for G-League duty."

Noel Johnson
Glendale

::

Once again Dan Woike's hero-worshiping campaign for James graces the sports page. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the game with my children so we missed James screaming to the crowd, "I'm a bad motherf—." Imagine trying to explain to your kids what's a bad motherf—?

Patrick Kelley
Los Angeles

Why keep her in the game?

Sunday's Times reported on an Ontario Christian female basketball player making 17 three-point shots (out of 31 taken) in a game, setting a state record. However, the final score of the game was 115-30, meaning not only did she outscore the other team, but she also took more shots than points scored by the other team. Disgustingly, she made nine three-pointers in the fourth quarter when the game was clearly out of hand. Why did coach Matt Tumambing have her still in the game? Where is the respect for the other team? When will commissioners, athletic directors and principals step in to bring a semblance of sportsmanship back to our youth?

Matt Clark
Los Angeles

About time

As a USC alumnus, I was pleased to learn Cromwell Field has been renamed to honor the legacy of Allyson Felix. It shouldn't have taken decades to remove the name of a known racist and antisemite.

Barry P. Resnick
Orange

More women's sports coverage

Is it ironic that the article about Title IX and equal treatment for female athletes is being printed in the male Sports section of the L.A. Times?

The word "male" is dropped from the name of the section but it is obvious from the overwhelming imbalance in the photos of the athletes.

With close to 500 days of statistics, the proof is that more than 92% of the photos are of male athletes. While the balance might not be 50-50, it is certainly not 92 to 8.

The article mentions hostility toward female athletes and I wonder if The Times is showing hostility toward women by ignoring or showing a mere less than 8% coverage of female athletes.

Michael Kember
Van Nuys

Golf a sport?

To the reader who was upset with the limited golf coverage in the Sports section of The Times, I will offer an explanation; golf is not a sport, it is a recreational activity such as fishing, and it really belongs in the Calendar section.

Steven Jayson
Playa Vista

::

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Email: sports@latimes.com

Plaschke selected for Hall of Fame induction

Times award-winning columnist will be honored by National Sports Media Assn.

Times staff

Times columnist Bill Plaschke was named to the National Sports Media Assn. Hall of Fame.

He joins ESPN's "College GameDay" fixture Lee Corso, hockey announcer Dan Kelly and essayist Roger Angell as the 2023 inductees.

Plaschke, a Louisville native and Southern Illinois University graduate, is in his 36th year with The Times.

He has been named the NSMA California Sportswriter of the Year three times, won extensive Associated Press Sports Editors honors throughout his career, was inducted into the California Sports Hall of Fame and has been featured in the Best American Sports Writing anthology numerous times.

"Bill Plaschke is an exceptional journalist who cares deeply about the Los Angeles community and his colleagues," Times sports editor Iliana Limón Romero said. "Decades into an elite career, he remains endlessly curious, eager to share stories of those often overlooked and driven to hold L.A. sports power brokers accountable for his readers."

Plaschke is a regular panelist on ESPN's "Around the Horn" and has written five books. He was named man of the year by the Los Angeles Big Brothers/Big Sisters chapter and has received a Pursuit of Justice Award from the California Women's Law Center.

The NSMA also named The Times' Bill Shaikin its California Sportswriter of the Year.

Shaikin's work in 2022 included breaking the news the California attorney general was investigating the Anaheim mayor for corruption amid the Angel Stadium land transaction.

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GOLF

Rahm ties rookie Thompson for La Quinta lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jon Rahm got off to a hot start and shot a seven-under 65 on Saturday on PGA West's Stadium Course for a share of the lead with tour rookie Davis Thompson in the American Express in La Quinta.

Thompson's run of eagles in the Southern California desert finally ended as the 23-year-old carded a 67, also on the Stadium Course, to settle into a tie with Rahm at 23-under 193. Thompson, who had five eagles in leading through the first two rounds, just missed a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 18 that would have given him a one-stroke lead.

Rahm, the world's fourth-ranked player who won at Kapalua two weeks ago, and Thompson will make up the final group Sunday on the Stadium Course, which was one of three courses that hosted the first three rounds.

J.T. Poston and Christiaan Bezuidenhout, who shot a 10-under 62 on the Nicklaus Tournament Course, were four strokes behind the leaders. Tom Kim, Harry Higgs, Sam Burns and Taylor Montgomery were another stroke back at 18 under.

Henderson leads

Brooke Henderson has a three-shot lead in the Grand Hilton Vacations Tournament of Champions. Henderson has been in control from the start in the LPGA Tour season opener at Lake Nona in Orlando, Fla. She stretched her lead to five shots at one point. But the Canadian stalled on the back nine. Her bonus was a sliding birdie putt on the 16th hole that led to a 69. She leads by three shots over Nelly Korda and Nasa Hataoka of Japan.

Crowd at the top

Shane Lowry has moved into position to win the Abu Dhabi Championship for a second time but the Irishman has company on a stacked leaderboard. Lowry, the 2019 champion, shot six-under 66 to tie for the third-round lead with Francesco Molinari and Min Woo Lee at 13-under overall. There were 12 players within three shots of the joint leaders and among them is Padraig Harrington, who shot 64.

GOLF LEADERS

$8-MILLION THE AMERICAN EXPRESS
At La Quinta—Par 72
a-PGA WEST TPC Stadium Course, 7,187 yards;
b-PGA WEST Nicklaus Course, 7,147 yards;
c-La Quinta Country Club, 7,060 yards
54-hole leaders

Jon Rahm	64c-64b-65a–193	-23
D. Thompson	62c-64b-67a–193	-23
C. Bezdnhout	68a-67c-62b–197	-19
J.T. Poston	65b-66a-66c–197	-19
Sam Burns	64a-70c-64b–198	-18
Harry Higgs	70a-66c-62b–198	-18
Tom Kim	69c-62b-67a–198	-18
T. Montgmry	64c-69b-65a–198	-18
Sungjae Im	65b-66a-68c–199	-17
Chris Kirk	69c-67b-63a–199	-17
Patton Kizzire	69c-63b-67a–199	-17
S. Scheffler	68c-65b-66a–199	-17
Rob Shelton	66a-68c-65b–199	-17
Dylan Wu	69a-69c-61b–199	-17
Seb. Munoz	71a-67c-62b–200	-16
Jason Day	67b-64a-70c–201	-15
Tony Finau	69c-67b-65a–201	-15
Adam Hadwin	68c-69b-64a–201	-15
X. Schauffele	65c-68b-68a–201	-15
Matt Schmid	64a-72c-65b–201	-15
Tom Detry	69c-66b-67a–202	-14
Tyler Duncan	64b-67a-71c–202	-14
Steph Jaeger	68a-69c-65b–202	-14
Danny Lee	67a-68c-67b–202	-14
Keith Mitchell	66a-70c-66b–202	-14
Scott Piercy	66c-67b-69a–202	-14
D. Burmester	65b-71a-67c–203	-13
H. Endycott	65a-71c-67b–203	-13
Garrick Higgo	67a-68c-68b–203	-13
Si Woo Kim	70c-64b-69a–203	-13
Andy Putnam	69a-69c-65b–203	-13
Justin Suh	72c-65b-66a–203	-13
Kevin Tway	67b-67a-69c–203	-13
E. V. Rooyen	65a-72c-66b–203	-13
Cam. Young	68b-70a-65c–203	-13

$1.5-MILLION LPGA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
At Orlando, Fla.—Par 72
Lake Nona Golf & Country Club—6,608 yards
54-hole scores

Brooke Henderson	67-66-69–202	-14
Nasa Hataoka	71-68-66–205	-11
Nelly Korda	68-69-68–205	-11
Charley Hull	69-69-69–207	-9
Maja Stark	71-68-68–207	-9
Moriya Jutanugarn	74-67-69–210	-6
Danielle Kang	71-69-70–210	-6
Gaby Lopez	73-68-69–210	-6
Paula Reto	74-69-67–210	-6
Yuka Saso	70-73-67–210	-6
Ashleigh Buhai	69-75-67–211	-5
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	70-72-69–211	-5
Anna Nordqvist	71-72-68–211	-5
Wei-Ling Hsu	69-69-74–212	-4
Ryann O'Toole	72-70-70–212	-4
Gemma Dryburgh	69-73-71–213	-3
Leona Maguire	71-69-73–213	-3
Celine Boutier	71-73-70–214	-2
Ayaka Furue	71-70-73–214	-2
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-72-72–215	-1
Matilda Castren	72-70-74–216	E
Ally Ewing	79-70-68–217	+1
Marina Alex	75-74-69–218	+2
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	72-72-74–218	+2
Jennifer Kupcho	73-74-71–218	+2
Andrea Lee	74-71-74–219	+3
Lizette Salas	71-77-72–220	+4
Patty Tavatanakit	72-74-78–224	+8
Ariya Jutanugarn	84-77-72–233	+17

$9-MILLION ABU DHABI HSBC CHAMPIONSHIP
At Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates—Par 72
Yas Links—7,425 yards
54-hole leaders

Min Woo Lee, Australia	68-69-66–203	-13
Shane Lowry, Ireland	67-70-66–203	-13
Francesco Molinari, Italy	67-67-69–203	-13
Grant Forrest, Scotland	71-68-65–204	-12
Victor Perez, France	71-65-68–204	-12
Sebastian Soderberg, Sweden	67-71-66–204	-12
Padraig Harrington, Ireland	68-73-64–205	-11
Adrian Meronk, Poland	70-67-68–205	-11
Guido Migliozzi, Italy	65-69-71–205	-11
Antoine Rozner, France	69-68-68–205	-11
Richard Bland, England	71-69-66–206	-10
Alex Noren, Sweden	72-66-68–206	-10
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	69-69-68–206	-10
Shubhankar Sharma, India	67-70-69–206	-10
Connor Syme, Scotland	68-74-64–206	-10
George Coetzee, South Africa	68-68-71–207	-9
Nicolai Hojgaard, Denmark	71-67-69–207	-9
Masahiro Kawamura, Japan	67-70-70–207	-9
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	70-69-68–207	-9
Edoardo Molinari, Italy	67-72-68–207	-9
Jason Scrivener, Australia	65-70-72–207	-9
Jeff Winther, Denmark	73-68-66–207	-9
Scott Jamieson, Scotland	67-69-72–208	-8
Adrian Otaegui, Spain	73-68-67–208	-8
Andy Sullivan, England	72-69-67–208	-8
Rafa Cabrera Bello, Spain	69-69-71–209	-7
Luke Donald, England	64-75-70–209	-7
Marcus Helligkilde, Denmark	71-71-67–209	-7
Matthew Jordan, England	69-71-69–209	-7
Robert Macintyre, Scotland	70-70-69–209	-7
Seamus Power, Ireland	66-73-70–209	-7
Santiago Tarrio, Spain	69-69-71–209	-7
Tyrrell Hatton, England	72-67-71–210	-6
Alexander Levy, France	68-68-74–210	-6
Matt Wallace, England	71-71-68–210	-6
Dale Whitnell, England	68-72-70–210	-6

$2-MILLION MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CHAMPIONSHIP
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii-Par 72
Hualalai Golf Course—7,107 yards
54-hole leaders

Steve Stricker	68-60-65–193	-23
Steven Alker	69-67-63–199	-17
Darren Clarke	65-66-68–199	-17
Ken Tanigawa	68-65-66–199	-17
Mike Weir	66-67-66–199	-17
Alex Cejka	66-64-70–200	-16
Ernie Els	66-68-66–200	-16
Kevin Sutherland	65-69-66–200	-16
Miguel Jimenez	67-70-66–203	-13
Bernhard Langer	67-66-71–204	-12
Justin Leonard	66-67-71–204	-12
Fred Couples	74-66-65–205	-11
Thong Jaidee	71-65-69–205	-11
Jerry Kelly	69-64-72–205	-11

K.C. ALFRED San Diego Union-Tribune

LUKE LIST, left, beat Will Zalatoris in their one-hole playoff to win the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines last January in San Diego. After a typical spectacular sunset, List would hold up the trophy in darkness.

List enjoys the distractions

Farmers winner admits to chewing the scenery in strange 2022 finish

BY BRYCE MILLER

LA QUINTA — As Luke List waited more than an hour and a half to find out if he would have a shot at his first PGA Tour victory during last January's Farmers Insurance Open, the stress surely had him in mental and gastronomical knots.

The stomach must have been in full churn as big names such as reigning U.S. Open champ Jon Rahm, two-time Farmers winner Jason Day and top-10 career earner Justin Rose lingered.

Right?

"It was nice to enjoy the beautiful scenery there at Torrey Pines," List said last week during the American Express at PGA West, the lead-in to the Farmers. "At Torrey, pretty much every view is scenic. It was nice to kind of have a distraction and enjoy the time there."

Enjoy the time? That close to a title? Something the 37-year-old has been chasing since turning pro in 2007? With a $1.5-million-and-change check at stake?

Instead of feeling as if he had ridden a double-barrel-roll roller coaster after eating at a Brazilian steakhouse, List was doing a little leisurely sightseeing.

Instead of pacing paths into the clubhouse carpet, he spent some time with his wife and kids before hitting shots on the North Course.

Then … he played tourist.

"I'd already hit a lot of balls," List said. "When I was watching the [TV] coverage, they were commenting on me hitting too many balls. So, I enjoyed the scenery."

Well, it worked. List dodged challenges from the top players, winning in a one-hole playoff against Will Zalatoris, another player hunting his first trophy. The pair played past one of those spectacular Torrey Pines sunsets with List holding the trophy in darkness.

Farmers Insurance Open

When: Wednesday-Saturday.
Where: Torrey Pines Golf Course (South and North courses), San Diego.
TV: Wednesday-Thursday: noon-4 p.m., Golf Channel; Friday: noon-2 p.m., Golf Channel, 2-5 p.m., Channel 2; Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Golf Channel, 1:30-5 p.m., Channel 2.

Oh, what a (nearly) night.

"I don't know if we could have gone another hole if we had to," List said. "They probably would have called it, so I'm glad it ended as quickly as it did."

They could not have played another hole. The last of the light had headed toward the locker room. A winner was going to be determined on the 73rd hole, a repeat run on No. 18, as everyone squinted to see.

"I knew I hit a good shot," said List, with the fan reaction verifying his sense of the fairway approach shot in the enveloping darkness. "My caddy was confident that it was fairly close. Nice to have a tap-in, for sure."

The drama was not limited to the light conditions. In a bizarre turn of events during the playoff, both tee shots landed in the right-side fairway bunker … four inches apart.

"Can you believe this," CBS announcer Jim Nantz said. Broadcast partner Nick Faldo doubled down on the zaniness: "I've never seen inches away off a tee shot. … It's just weird to look down [when hitting] and see two golf balls."

Those uncomfortably close neighbors would decide a championship.

"It was just so bizarre," Zalatoris said last week. "You rarely ever see that."

List hit first, into the fairway. Zalatoris followed, ending up in the same part of the fairway.

They were shoulder to shoulder, stroke for stroke. Then List lifted a shrouded beauty to within a foot.

"We were having a tough time seeing," Zalatoris recalled.

"I didn't really see how close Luke's shot was," Zalatoris added. "It was also my first time being in a playoff. It's not like I'm going to come back the next morning and wait to hit a [13]-footer and be thinking about it all night. I wanted to try and make that [ensuing putt] and come back the next day.

"Yes, it was dark, but I don't regret anything. I wouldn't change it either way. Maybe just make the eight-footer the first time [on 18 and avoid the playoff]."

The ebbing light. Bunker buddies after 300-yard tee shots. First Tour wins hanging in the balance.

Torrey doing Torrey things.

"For some reason, that event always gives you a thrilling ending," said Rahm, the 2017 Farmers winner and 2021 U.S. Open champ at Torrey who finished in a tie for third. "I've had the luck of being part of a few of them on both sides. … For some reason, Torrey always brings the excitement."

Zalatoris rebounded. Quite nicely, in fact. He won the FedEx St. Jude last August for his first victory. He finished second in the PGA Championship and U.S. Open, meaning he has finished as runner-up in all but one major after a second at the Masters in 2021.

He's now No. 7 in the world golf rankings, 83 spots ahead of List.

"I think the amount of seconds I had gave me validation I was doing the right thing," Zalatoris said. "In reality, I was one or two bounces or a couple inches away from having a couple majors under my belt and a couple of Tour wins.

"You don't make wholesale changes when you're that close. You just keep doing what you're doing and eventually the chips were going to go the right way."

In the end, it was List's day … and night.

"I'm excited to be defending anywhere," he said. "This will be a special week."

And Torrey will flash those special views. Just ask List.

Miller writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Rybakina's big serve makes short work of No. 1 Swiatek

She hits six aces and ousts three-time major winner in straight sets at Australian Open.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK BAKER Associated Press

ELENA RYBAKINA advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the first time. The reigning Wimbledon champion next plays Jelena Ostapenko.

MELBOURNE, Australia — Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina eliminated No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek in straight sets Sunday to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time.

The 22nd-seeded Rybakina used her big serving to unsettle Swiatek and got the better of their baseline exchanges to win 6-4, 6-4 in about 1½ hours.

"I played well in the important moments," said Rybakina, a 23-year-old who represents Kazakhstan. "Of course I'm nervous every time I go on the court, I think like everybody. But I'm calm, always. At least I'm trying not to show too much emotions. My coach says I actually need to show sometimes, so I'm also learning."

Swiatek is a three-time major champion, including titles at the French Open and U.S. Open last season.

Rybakina's No. 25 ranking does not properly reflect her ability or results because her championship at the All England Club last July did not come with any ranking points. The WTA and ATP tours withheld all points at Wimbledon in 2022 after the All England Club barred players from Russia and Belarus from participating because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Rybakina — who will face Jelena Ostapenko for a berth in the semifinals after Ostapenko got past Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-3 — was born in Moscow but has played for Kazakhstan since 2018, when that country offered her funding to support her tennis career.

Despite her status as a major champion, Rybakina has been out of the spotlight: Her first-round match at Melbourne Park was placed on tiny Court 13 last Monday; her match against two-time Slam champ Garbine Muguruza at least year's U.S. Open was on Court 4.

But her game is worthy of much more attention, as she displayed in knocking out Swiatek at Rod Laver Arena.

Rybakina hit six aces and compiled a 24-15 edge in winners against the 21-year-old from Poland, who was a semifinalist a year ago in Australia. That followed Rybakina's victory over 2022 runner-up Danielle Collins in the third round.

On the men's side, three-time major champion Andy Murray's exhausting run ended in the third round after a 6-1, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4 loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in a match that lasted about 3½ hours.

The 35-year-old Murray had won two marathons just to get to this point, where he is a five-time finalist.

"You can't always control the outcome. You can't control how well you're going to play or the result. You can control the effort that you put into it, and I gave everything that I had the last three matches. I'm very proud of that," Murray said. "But, yeah, I'm also disappointed."

TENNIS RESULTS

$54-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (third round—Alex de Minaur (22), Australia, d. Benjamin Bonzi, France, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-1; Tommy Paul d. Jenson Brooksby, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3; Jeffrey John Wolf d. Michael Mmoh, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; Ben Shelton d. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-4; Novak Djokovic (4), Serbia, d. Grigor Dimitrov (27), Bulgaria, 7-6 (7), 6-3, 6-4; Roberto Bautista Agut (24), Spain, d. Andy Murray, Britain, 6-1, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (third round)—Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, df. Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3; Caroline Garcia (4), France, d. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; Magda Linette, Poland, d. Ekaterina Alexandrova (19), Russia, 6-3, 6-4; Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, 6-4, 6-4;

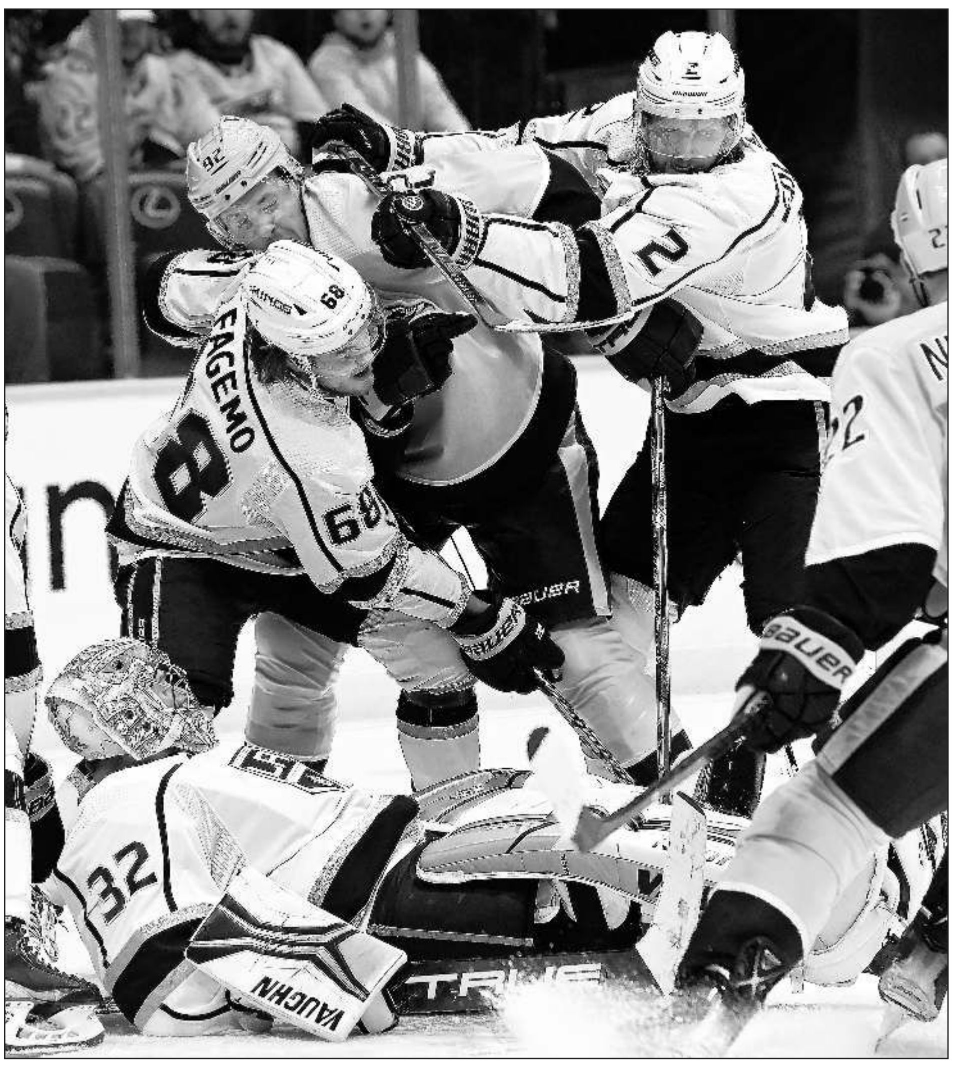
(Fourth round)—Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, 6-4, 6-4; Jelena Ostapenko (17), Latvia, d. Coco Gauff (7), 7-5, 6-3.

MEN'S DOUBLES (second round)—Luke Saville and Alex Bolt, Australia, df. Nikola Mektic-d Mate Pavic (4), Croatia, 7-5, 6-3; Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands-nd Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (3), El Salvador, d. Yoshihito Nishioka-Ben McLachlan, Japan, 7-6 (3), 6-4; John Peers, Australia-Andreas Mies (14), Germany, d. Andre Goransson, Sweden-Marc-Andrea Huesler, Switzerland, 6-4, 7-6 (5); Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan-Nikola Cacic, Serbia, df. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France-Santiago Gonzalez (15), Mexico, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (4); Jason Kubler-Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. Harri Heliovaara, Finland-Lloyd Glasspool (6), Britain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2; Fabrice Martin-Jeremy Chardy, France, d. N. Sriram Balaji-Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, India, 6-4, 6-4; Arthur Rinderknech-Benjamin Bonzi, France, d. Ariel Behar, Uruguay, and Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (2).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (second round)—Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Alycia Parks, d. Sabrina Santamaria and Claire Liu, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2; Barbora Krejcikova-Katerina Siniakova (1), Czech Republic, d. Alison Riske-Amritraj, and Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2; Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus-Tereza Mihalikova, Slovakia, d. Asia Muhammad and Taylor Townsend (12), 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-5; Zhaoxuan Yang, China-Hao-Ching Chan (11), Taiwan, d. Makoto Ninomiya, Japan-Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-3, 6-3; Storm Sanders, Australia-Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, d. Kristina Mladenovic, France-Timea Babos, Hungary, 6-3, 6-3; Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium-Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, d. Sania Mirza, India-Anna Danilina (8), Kazakhstan, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

MIXED DOUBLES (second round)—Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia-Kristina Mladenovic, France, d. Aleksandr Nedovyesov-Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 10-7; Marc Polmans-Olivia Gadecki, Australia, d. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Ena Shibahara (4), Japan, 6-2, 6-2; Andrew Harris-Alana Parnaby, Australia, d. Robin Haase, Netherlands-Zhang Shuai, China, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 10-8; Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador-Giuliana Olmos (1), Mexico, d. Latisha Chan, Taiwan-Hugo Nys, Monaco, 6-2, 3-6, 10-6; Nikola Mektic, Croatia-Demi Schuurs (5), Netherlands, d. Matthew Ebden-Sam Stosur, Australia, 4-6, 6-3, 10-6; Rohan Bopanna-Sania Mirza, India, d. Luke Saville-Jaimee Fourlis, Australia, 7-5, 6-3.

(Third round)—Rafael Matos-Luisa Stefani, Brazil, d. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, and Mate Pavic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-4.



Mark Zaleski Associated Press

JONATHAN QUICK, who replaced Pheonix Copley early in the game, lies on the puck during a second-period scrum in front of the net. Quick made 22 saves.

A nightmare start dooms Kings in end

Team allows two goals in first 39 seconds as Copley is pulled again in third straight loss.

NASHVILLE 5
KINGS 3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE — Matt Duchene broke a tie with 6:26 left with his second goal of the game in the Nashville Predators' 5-3 victory over the Kings on Saturday night.

Mikael Granlund and Ryan Johansen each had a goal and an assist, Cole Smith had his first NHL goal and Juuse Saros made 31 saves for the Predators, who have won three of four. Roman Josi had three assists.

"I thought the guys did a great job," Nashville coach John Hynes said. "It was a good win. I thought it was a real solid game. That's something you can build off of."

Sean Durzi scored a goal and assisted on another, and Adrian Kempe and Quinton Byfield also scored for the Kings, who began a six-game trip but have now lost three games in a row and fallen out of third place in the Pacific Division after Edmonton's win over Vancouver.

Anze Kopitar had two assists, and Pheonix Copley and Jonathan Quick combined for 23 saves.

Trailing by a goal in the third, Nashville rallied on goals by Johansen and Duchene.

"Lots happened out there and we just stuck with it," Johansen said. "Guys made some big plays. We found a way to get the lead and close out the game. It was a fun game, a big two points for group."

The Predators came out charging, with Granlund scoring at 19 seconds and Duchene at 39 seconds.

Copley gave up the two goals in three shots and was pulled in favor of Quick, who turned 37 Saturday. In his last two games, Copley has given up six goals in 20 shots and has been pulled in both.

In the second period, Kempe's goal tied the score at 2-2 after nifty saucer passes by Drew Doughty and Kopitar led a rush.

The Kings took the lead on a power play with 2:56 left in the period when Byfield scored his second goal of the season. Byfield gathered a loose puck in front of the net and then turned and fired one high past Saros.

PREDATORS 5, KINGS 3

KINGS	1	2	0	3
Nashville	2	0	3	5

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Nsh., Granlund 5 (Johansen, Carrier), 0:19. 2. Nsh., Duchene 12 (Glass, Josi), 0:39. 3. KINGS, Durzi 6 (Kopitar), 9:26. **Penalties**—Lemieux, KINGS (Fighting), 2:07. Jeannot, NSH (Fighting), 2:07. Durzi, KINGS (Roughing), 13:09. Glass, NSH (Slashing), 13:09. Jeannot, NSH (High Sticking), 17:13.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. KINGS, Kempe 19 (Doughty, Kopitar), 6:14. 5. KINGS, Byfield 2 (Durzi, Danault), 17:04 (pp). **Penalties**—Josi, NSH (Holding), 7:32. Fabbro, NSH (Tripping), 16:42.

THIRD PERIOD: 6. Nsh., Johansen 11 (Granlund, Josi), 8:44 (pp). 7. Nsh., Duchene 13 (Carrier, Glass), 13:34. 8. Nsh., Smith 1 (Parssinen, Josi), 16:10. **Penalties**—Edler, KINGS (Holding Stick), 7:44. Granlund, NSH (Delay of Game), 18:25. Granlund, NSH (Misconduct), 18:25.

SHOTS ON GOAL: KINGS 12-12-10—34. Nsh. 9-8-11—28. Power-play conversions—KINGS 1 of 4. Nsh. 1 of 1.

GOALIES: KINGS, Quick 8-11-4 (25 shots-22 saves). Nsh., Saros 17-13-5 (34-31). Att—17,654 (17,113).

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	29	16	2	60	155	135
Seattle	27	14	5	59	166	144
Edmonton	27	18	3	57	178	157
KINGS	25	17	6	56	157	166
Calgary	22	16	9	53	150	143
Vancouver	18	25	3	39	155	186
San Jose	14	24	9	37	145	180
DUCKS	13	29	5	31	113	199
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	28	13	7	63	167	124
Winnipeg	30	16	1	61	155	123
Minnesota	25	16	4	54	143	130
Colorado	25	17	3	53	141	124
Nashville	22	18	6	50	129	136
St. Louis	23	21	3	49	149	167
Arizona	14	27	5	33	119	169
Chicago	14	26	4	32	107	161

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

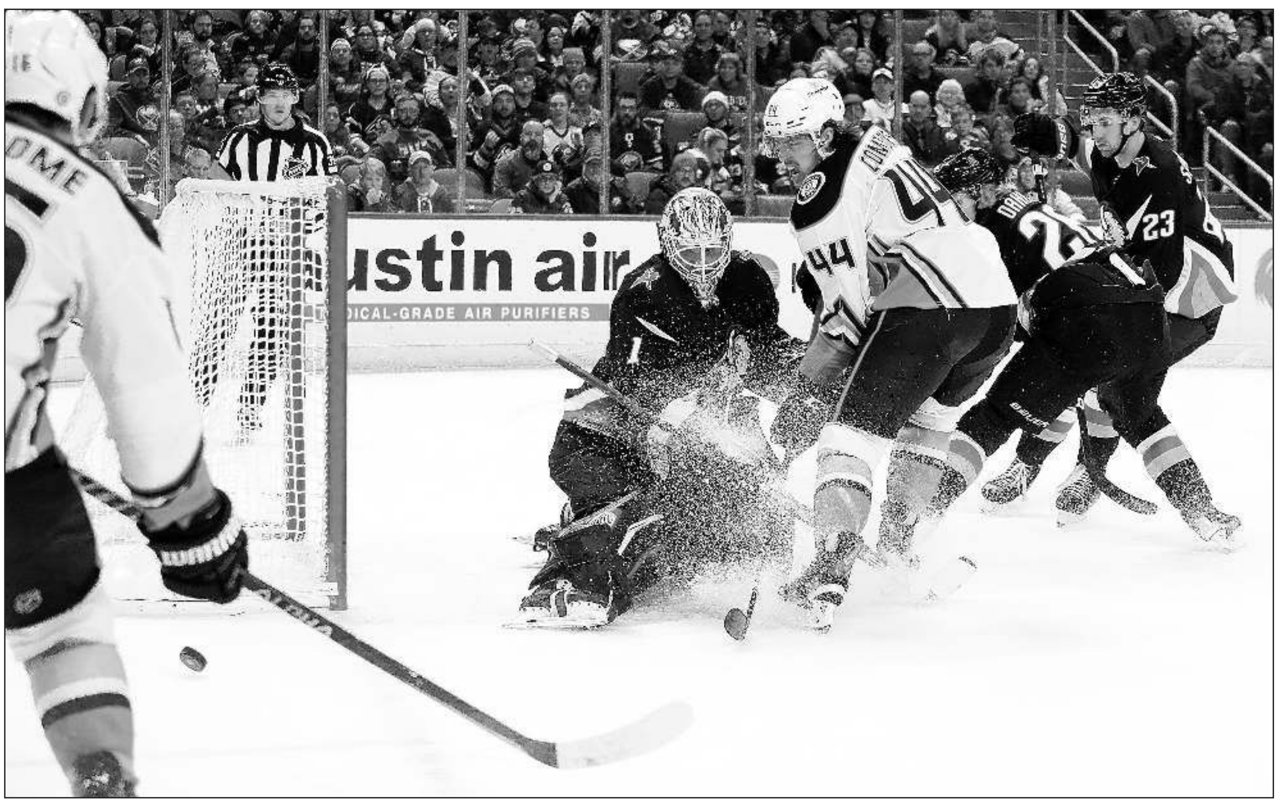
Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	29	9	8	66	151	124
New Jersey	29	12	4	62	159	120
NY Rangers	25	14	7	57	145	123
Washington	25	18	6	56	156	139
Pittsburgh	23	15	7	53	147	136
NY Islanders	23	20	5	51	141	136
Philadelphia	20	20	7	47	130	150
Columbus	14	30	2	30	119	180
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	36	5	4	76	173	96
Toronto	28	11	8	64	158	125
Tampa Bay	29	15	1	59	163	135
Florida	23	20	5	51	163	163
Buffalo	23	19	3	49	172	155
Detroit	19	18	8	46	138	153
Ottawa	20	23	3	43	133	152
Montreal	20	24	3	43	125	171

RESULTS

AT NASHVILLE 5 KINGS 3	The Kings gave up two goals in the first 39 seconds, rallied to take the lead, but fell apart in the third period.
AT BUFFALO 6 DUCKS 3	Victor Olofsson and Peyton Krebs each scored two goals for the Sabres. Trevor Zegras scored twice for the Ducks.
AT CALGARY 6 TAMPA BAY 3	Rasmus Andersson had a goal and two assists, and Dan Vladar improved to 8-0-3 in his last 11 appearances.
AT FLORIDA 5 MINNESOTA 3	Alex Lyon made 28 saves for his second consecutive victory while the Panthers' top two goalies are out injured.
AT COLUMBUS 5 SAN JOSE 3	Gustav Nyquist scored in the third, and the Blue Jackets rallied from two goals down for their second straight win.
PHILADELPHIA 2 AT DETROIT 1	Scott Laughton snapped a scoreless tie midway through the third period. The Flyers are 9-3-0 in their last 12.
AT MONTREAL 3 TORONTO 2 (OT)	Rem Pitlick whipped a wrist shot past Ilya Samsonov 2:14 into overtime. Samuel Montembeault made 36 saves.
WINNIPEG 5 AT OTTAWA 1	Mark Scheifele scored two goals and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 25 shots to give the Jets their 30th victory.
CAROLINA 5 AT N.Y. ISLANDERS 2	Sebastian Aho had three goals for his sixth career hat trick, and Frederik Andersen won his fourth straight start.
AT DALLAS 4 ARIZONA 0	Radek Faksa had his first two-goal game in three years, and Jake Oettinger earned his fourth shutout this season.
CHICAGO 5 AT ST. LOUIS 3	Jaxson Stauber, son of former Kings goalie Robb Stauber, recorded 28 saves in his NHL debut for the Blackhawks.
COLORADO 2 AT SEATTLE 1 (SO)	Nathan MacKinnon scored the only goal of the shootout. Alex Newhook had the Avalanche's goal in regulation.
EDMONTON 4 AT VANCOUVER 2	Zach Hyman had a goal and three assists. The Oilers moved into third in the Pacific Division, above the Kings.
AT VEGAS 6 WASHINGTON 2	Paul Cotter scored twice to help the Golden Knights end a three-game skid. Alex Ovechkin sat out because of injury.

TODAY'S GAMES

KINGS at Chicago, 4 p.m.
San Jose at Boston, 4 p.m.
Vegas at Arizona, 5 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New Jersey, 11 a.m.
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.



Joshua Bessex Associated Press

BUFFALO GOALIE Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen makes one of his 34 saves on a shot by Max Comtois (44).

Sabres surge past the slumping Ducks

Olofsson's late scores sink Anaheim, 1-5-1 in its last seven, despite two goals by Zegras.

BUFFALO 6
DUCKS 3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Victor Olofsson and Peyton Krebs each scored two goals to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 6-3 win against the Ducks on Saturday.

Olofsson gave the Sabres a 4-3 lead at 2:12 of the third period when he finished off a two-on-one break with defenseman Ilya Lyubushkin. His second goal of the game made it 5-3 at 8:07, and he set a career high with 21 goals. He's also scored in three consecutive games.

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 34 saves for Buffalo.

Trevor Zegras had two goals and Simon Benoit also scored for the Ducks. John Gibson made 33 saves for Anaheim, which is 1-5-1 in its last seven games.

"Just mental mistakes. It's a game that we're totally in, we battle back," Ducks coach Dallas Eakins said. "We're a team, an obviously rebuilding team, that we have to play a perfect game to be in the game, that's just the way it is where we're at as an organization. Those mental mistakes can't happen."

Dylan Cozens opened the scoring at 9:53 of the first when he faked out Ducks forward Jakob Silfverberg and put a shot over Gibson's shoulder. Jeff Skinner made it 2-0 with a snap shot past Gibson on the power play for his 19th goal of the season.

Zegras tied the score with goals at 4:47 and 8:14 of the second period.

"His play is greatly improving always," Eakins said. "He's obviously an offensive threat all the time, he's gotten much better defensively and managing the puck, and his growth continues."

Benoit made it 3-3 at 15:29 when he sent a turnaround shot toward the net and past Luukkonen.

"We can't dwell on it. We have to learn from it and then the next game is another game," Benoit said. "We have to keep working and try to finish the road trip over .500."

SABRES 6, DUCKS 3

DUCKS	0	3	0	3
Buffalo	2	1	3	6

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Buf., Cozens 16 (Lyubushkin, Dahlin), 9:53. 2. Buf., Skinner 19 (Tuch, Thompson), 17:39 (pp). **Penalties**—Dahlin, BUF (Delay of Game), 7:40. McTavish, DUCKS (Hooking), 16:20. Shattenkirk, DUCKS (Tripping), 18:50.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. DUCKS, Zegras 16 (Comtois, Strome), 4:47. 4. DUCKS, Zegras 17 (Beaulieu), 8:14. 5. Buf., Krebs 5 (Okposo, Dahlin), 10:49. 6. DUCKS, Benoit 3 (Zegras, Henrique), 15:29. **Penalties**—Strome, DUCKS (Fighting), 18:38. Krebs, BUF (Fighting), 18:38.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. Buf., Olofsson 20 (Lyubushkin), 2:12. 8. Buf., Olofsson 21 (Power, Jost), 8:07. 9. Buf., Krebs 6 (Lyubushkin, Tuch), 13:40. **Penalties**—None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: DUCKS 9-19-9—37. Buf. 11-17-11—39. Power-play conversions—DUCKS 0 of 1. Buf. 1 of 2.

GOALIES: DUCKS, Gibson 8-20-4 (39 shots-33 saves). Buf., Luukkonen 12-5-1 (37-34). Att—19,070 (19,070). T—2:23.

Dominguez honors alums Chandler and Prince

ERIC SONDHEIMER
ON HIGH SCHOOLS

Eric Sondheimer Los Angeles Times

FORMER DONS basketball greats Tyson Chandler, left, and Tayshaun Prince hold up their retired jerseys on Friday night in the Compton Dominguez gym.

Standing side by side in the middle of the Compton Dominguez High gym Friday night holding their framed basketball jerseys were No. 32, Tyson Chandler, and No. 21, Tayshaun Prince, Dons for life and two of the greatest players from Southern California.

The moment was a long time coming for the school and community, honoring individuals who were not only historic players but true role models.

"Honestly, these are going to be some of the best moments of your life," Chandler told members of this season's Dominguez basketball team in the weight room before their game against Downey. "Don't take none of these moments for granted. This is going to be your brothers for life. Things, what you go through together is what makes you bond. You'll never have this again."

Prince told the same players, "Whether basketball or whatever it may be, first have that vision to be great. What's happening to me today is because I had a vision that I wanted to be great. I had obstacles along the way, ups and downs, how you get back up after you get knocked down."

Each won an Olympic gold medal. Each won an NBA championship. Each won a state championship. In high school, from 1995 to 1998, the 6-foot-9 Prince won four Southern Section titles and two state titles. He was a first-round draft pick out of Kentucky and played from 2002 to 2016 in the NBA.

The 7-foot Chandler played with Prince his freshman year at Dominguez and was profiled on CBS' "60 Minutes" as an eighth-grader. He was the second pick overall in the 2001 NBA draft by the Clippers coming straight out of Dominguez and played in the NBA until 2020.

Chandler's former high school teammate Bobby Jones did the lobbying and organization to finally get the first two of what should be many Dominguez players to have their jerseys retired. Next up surely will be Hall of Famer Dennis Johnson of Boston Celtics fame.

> 'This is where it all started. To be able to come back here and have a mural up and my jersey retired, I'm so humbly grateful.'
>
> — Tyson Chandler, former NBA player and Compton Dominguez alum

"Retiring their jerseys and actually seeing someone come out of your high school and be able to be successful, that's big for our community and our kids to see," Dominguez coach Jonathan Davis said.

One Dominguez player said "thank you" to Prince for coming back to talk to the team. It's that kind of appreciation that certainly will be motivation for others to return soon.

There's a mural on a wall at Dominguez featuring Prince, Chandler and football's Richard Sherman, honoring them as Dons and champions.

Chandler stood next to the mural on Friday night feeling emotional. "This is where it all started," he said wearing an L.A. cap. "To be able to come back here and have a mural up and my jersey retired, I'm so humbly grateful. It's a great, proud moment. I appreciate the love. Some great memories here."

Prince, asked about his success, said he had the right support system and a vision "to make it to the NBA and whatever was going to be in my path, I wasn't going to allow it to happen."

Prince, 42, now works for the Memphis Grizzlies as vice president of basketball affairs.

Chandler, 40, is a player development coach for the Dallas Mavericks, the team he helped win its first NBA championship in 2011.

It was a night for jersey retirements. Huntington Beach Marina retired the jerseys of Cherokee Parks and Rich Branning. And Long Beach St. Anthony honored guard Darrick Martin with a jersey retirement.

Hurts erases all doubts as Eagles undress Giants

PHILADELPHIA 38
NEW YORK GIANTS 7

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — All it took was one throw. Jalen Hurts let it fly on his first pass attempt of the game and suddenly the unease that crept into that often worrisome Philly sports psyche — yeah, but how is his banged-up right shoulder, really? — seemed to dissipate.

Hurts' shoulder was fine. No doubt about that.

With Hurts in control, the Philadelphia Eagles once again look like the team that was rarely challenged during an NFL-best 13-1 start.

Hurts threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score during a dominant first half, and the Eagles overwhelmed the New York Giants 38-7 on Saturday night in an NFC divisional playoff game.

"To have him out there, I know this is high praise, it's like having Michael Jordan out there," coach Nick Sirianni said. "He's your leader. He's your guy. That's the biggest respect I can pay to him."

Top-seeded Philadelphia will host the NFC championship game next Sunday against either Dallas or San Francisco.

Hurts missed two late-season losses with a sprained right shoulder and then showed the Giants nothing in the season finale when the Eagles ran a vanilla offense designed to protect the Pro Bowl quarterback.

Under bright postseason lights at Lincoln Financial Field, the Eagles unleashed an offense designed to clobber the Giants.

Hurts dazzled early with his arm and Philadelphia's offensive line opened big holes for Miles Sanders and Kenneth Gainwell as the Eagles finished with 268 yards on the ground. Hurts finished 16 of 24 for 154 yards.

"Seemed like the old Jalen to me," Sanders said.

Hurts showed he was fine when he aired out a pass on the second play of the game and hit DeVonta Smith in stride for a 40-yard reception. The fun was just starting in Philly.

Hurts was flawless on the drive, completing passes of nine yards, five yards, and then a 16-yard touchdown pass on a one-handed grab by tight end Dallas Goedert.

Second drive, more of the same. Hurts had completions of 12 yards and nine yards en route to a nine-yard TD pass to Smith.

It was 14-0 in the first quarter and the Giants already needed a standing eight count. New York turned the ball over on downs on its first possession, and Daniel Jones was intercepted by James Bradberry on its second.

The Linc was bonkers with full-throated chants of "E-A-G-L-E-S!" filling the air and Sirianni went wild chest-bumping assistants on the sideline. "Philly's been drinking since 8 a.m," Goedert cracked of the raucous atmosphere.

Hurts went seven of seven for 89 yards in the first quarter.

"This guy leads, he brings this calmness to the entire team," Sirianni said. "He's as tough as they come. To me, there's not anybody that's played better football than him this year."

Eagles 38, Giants 7

N.Y. Giants	0	0	7	0	– 7
Philadelphia	14	14	0	10	–38

First Quarter

Phi—Goedert 16 pass from Hurts (Elliott kick), 10:06.
Phi—D.Smith 9 pass from Hurts (Elliott kick), 1:21.

Second Quarter

Phi—B.Scott 3 run (Elliott kick), 7:29.
Phi—Hurts 5 run (Elliott kick), :43.

Third Quarter

NYG—Breida 8 run (Gano kick), 6:15.

Fourth Quarter

Phi—FG Elliott 30, 5:16.
Phi—Gainwell 35 run (Elliott kick), 1:51.
Attendance—69,879.

STATISTICS

TEAM	NYG	Phi
First downs	13	26
Total Net Yards	227	416
Rushes-yards	20-118	44-268
Passing	109	148
Punt Returns	1--3	0-0
Kickoff Returns	5-129	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-8
Comp-Att-Int	15-27-1	16-24-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-26	1-6
Punts	5-43.2	3-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	1-5	5-25
Time of Possession	24:17	35:43

Individual Leaders

RUSHING: N.Y. Giants, Barkley 9-61, Jones 6-24, Breida 4-23, Brightwell 1-10. Philadelphia, Gainwell 12-112, Sanders 17-90, Hurts 9-34, B.Scott 6-32.

PASSING: N.Y. Giants, Jones 15-27-1-135. Philadelphia, Hurts 16-24-0-154.

RECEIVING: N.Y. Giants, James 7-51, Barkley 2-21, Breida 1-19, M.Johnson 1-17, Cager 1-16, Bellinger 1-4, Slayton 1-4, Hodgins 1-3. Philadelphia, Smith 6-61, Goedert 5-58, Brown 3-22, Gainwell 1-9, Pascal 1-4.

FIELD GOALS MISSED: None.

MATT ROURKE Associated Press

EAGLES QUARTERBACK Jalen Hurts runs five yards for a touchdown and a 28-0 lead in first half.

Photographs by CHARLIE RIEDEL Associated Press

CHIEFS QUARTERBACK Patrick Mahomes, left, works under pressure from Jaguars linebacker Arden Key during the first half in Kansas City, Mo. The Chiefs are headed to a fifth consecutive AFC title game.

Guided by hobbled Mahomes, Chiefs defeat upstart Jaguars

KANSAS CITY 27
JACKSONVILLE 20

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Hobbling along on an injured ankle, Patrick Mahomes threw for 195 yards and two touchdowns Saturday, leading the Kansas City Chiefs to a 27-20 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars and a spot in their fifth straight AFC title game.

Mahomes missed most of the second quarter after his ankle was landed on by a Jacksonville defender.

But the All-Pro quarterback returned in the second half and, relying on guts and guile, led the Chiefs on a 75-yard touchdown drive in the fourth quarter that helped to ensure a date with the Bengals-Bills winner for a spot in the Super Bowl.

If Cincinnati wins Sunday, the AFC title game will be played at Arrowhead Stadium. If Buffalo wins, it will be in Atlanta because the league decided that a neutral site would be used after Buffalo played one fewer game and finished a half-game behind Kansas City.

"I mean, it's a credit to the guys around me," Mahomes said. "The offensive line kept me clean in the pocket, knowing that I couldn't move, and guys made plays around me. That's what a great team does, is when somebody gets a little banged up, everybody around them steps up."

The question on everyone's mind — Will Mahomes be available next week? — might be no question at all.

"Yeah, X-rays were negative and they haven't diagnosed anything yet," he said, "but I'll be good to go."

Travis Kelce had a career-high 14 catches for 98 yards and two touchdowns for Kansas City.

TIGHT END Travis Kelce, right, hauls in one of his career-high 14 catches for a Chiefs first down. Kelce amassed 98 yards and two touchdowns on his receptions.

Isiah Pacheco ran for 95 yards, while Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in the eventual clinching touchdown with about seven minutes left in the game.

The Jaguars, who rallied from a 27-0 deficit to beat the Chargers in the wild-card round, squandered two chances to mount another late rally. The first ended when Jamal Agnew had the ball pop loose inside the Chiefs five with about 5 ½ minutes to go, and the second when Jaylen Watson made a leaping, one-handed interception to take the ball away again.

Trevor Lawrence finished with 217 yards passing with a touchdown toss to Christian Kirk, who was briefly hurt midway through the fourth quarter but returned to finish the game. Travis Etienne added 62 yards rushing and a score.

Long before Mahomes hobbled to the sideline in pain, he was at his creative best, driving the Chiefs downfield for a touchdown to Kelce on their opening possession.

In a play that changed the complexion of the game, Mahomes was moving up in the pocket when Jaguars defender Arden Key brought the full weight of his body down on the star quarterback's right ankle.

Mahomes hobbled to the huddle and managed to get through three more plays to end the first quarter, then was on the field two more plays before Harrison Butker kicked a 50-yard field goal.

"Yeah, I did not want to go and they kind of gave me the ultimatum that I wasn't going back in unless I went in there," said Mahomes, who cheered them on from the sideline, wearing a puffy winter coat on a cold, sleeting night.

"They're trying to take care of me. We've got a lot of great people over here, but it's going to take a lot to keep me out of a football game."

Chiefs 27, Jaguars 20

Jacksonville	7	3	0	10	–20
Kansas City	7	10	3	7	–27

First Quarter

KC—Kelce 8 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 7:56.
Jac—Kirk 10 pass from Lawrence (Patterson kick), 5:04.

Second Quarter

KC—FG Butker 50, 14:09.
KC—Kelce 1 pass from Henne (Butker kick), 3:54.
Jac—FG Patterson 41, :27.

Third Quarter

KC—FG Butker 50, :08.

Fourth Quarter

Jac—Etienne 4 run (Patterson kick), 11:49.
KC—Valdes-Scantling 6 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 7:08.
Jac—FG Patterson 48, :25.

STATISTICS

TEAM	Jac	KC
First downs	20	23
Total Net Yards	349	362
Rushes-yards	19-144	30-144
Passing	205	218
Punt Returns	3-23	3-23
Kickoff Returns	3-131	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-1
Comp-Att-Int	24-39-1	27-37-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-12	0-0
Punts	4-47.75	4-50.75
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-40	3-30
Time of Possession	24:59	35:01

Individual Leaders

RUSHING: Jacksonville, Etienne 10-62, Hasty 4-36, Lawrence 3-26, Kirk 1-18, Agnew 1-2. Kansas City, Pacheco 12-95, McKinnon 11-25, Toney 1-14, Mahomes 3-8, Moore 1-3, Gray 1-0, Henne 1-(minus 1).

PASSING: Jacksonville, Lawrence 24-39-1-217. Kansas City, Mahomes 22-30-0-195, Henne 5-7-0-23.

RECEIVING: Jacksonville, Kirk 7-52, Z.Jones 5-83, Engram 5-31, Etienne 3-18, Agnew 2-5, M.Jones 1-21, Hasty 1-7. Kansas City, Kelce 14-98, Toney 5-36, Smith-Schuster 2-29, Gray 1-27, Ju.Watson 1-12, Pacheco 1-6, Valdes-Scantling 1-6, Bell 1-4, Moore 1-0.

FIELD GOALS MISSED: None.

Buffalo fans love their teams, never forget former stars

[**NFL,** from D1]

unsatisfying because the Bills didn't touch the ball in the extra period — that it prompted the league to change its postseason overtime rules.

For the Bills of yesteryear, this finally could be *the* team.

"The electricity in the city is amazing," Hall of Fame quarterback Kelly said. "More than anything, they just want a team that can win and hopefully get them that Lombardi Trophy."

Kelly stayed in western New York after retiring and raised his family there, as did several of his former teammates, among them Hall of Fame running back Thurman Thomas, safety Mark Kelso, special teamer Tasker and others.

"People don't treat you like football royalty here, it's better than that," Tasker said. "They treat you like family. It's not 'Mr. Kelly' to fans here, it's Jim. It's not 'Mr. Smith,' it's Bruce. They call you by your first name and walk right up to you like you're a family member. It's always been that way."

In Buffalo, old guys rule.

"People will come up to you and tell you that you were their mom's favorite player, or their grandma's or uncle's," said Tasker, now a CBS analyst. "That's kind of the way it is here. It's a unique environment."

Recent tragedies have further forged the Buffalo community, from the supermarket shooting in May, to two crippling snowstorms, to Bills safety Damar Hamlin nearly dying on the field of cardiac arrest earlier this month.

The Bills have been more than a welcome distraction. For many people, they're the embodiment of hope.

"I think there's a feeling around Buffalo that, yeah, we can win one," Tasker said. "Some fans are famous for hyperbole and overreaction, like, 'Oh, we're never going to win one.'

"But I don't think Bills fans are like that. Bills fans are like, 'Yeah, we have it in our destiny to win one in the future. Maybe it's in our destiny to win it this year.' None of that doomsday stuff."

Buffalo is 13-1 at home in the postseason, and 4-0 under current coach Sean McDermott. The Bills have won eight games in a row, matching their longest streak since 2020, and Allen has rounded into one of the NFL's best quarterbacks. In seven playoff appearances, he has 2,070 yards passing and 17 touchdowns.

But the Bengals are no pushovers. They are 2-0 against the Bills in the postseason, with both of those games being played in Cincinnati. They have not lost since Halloween — a nine-game winning streak — and, led by quarterback Joe Burrow, have reached the divisional round in consecutive years for the first time in franchise history.

Allen said the challenges and attention surrounding the Hamlin situation have brought the Bills even closer.

"I think it gives you a more sturdy foundation. The more struggle, the more adversity that you can see over the course of the year, it just makes you stronger," the quarterback said. "We've been in some really weird situations this year that not a lot of teams maybe have ever gone through. Being able to have that under our belts, understand those emotions in those situations, and just try to use it to our advantage."

James Lofton noticed maturity in the Bills players when he was invited to speak to the receivers on a video call in 2020. He and fellow Hall of Fame receiver Andre Reed, teammates in the early 1990s, talked to the next generation of pass catchers in a virtual meeting that connected the club's stars of the past and present.

"You kind of want guys to overlook personal statistics and play for each other," said Lofton, an analyst for CBS and Westwood One. "I think that as I watch this team, that's what I see them doing. I've gotten a chance to do a couple games here and there, and they really are about as unselfish a group as they can be."

That's precisely what Levy preached when he coached the Bills from 1986 to '97, earning his spot in the Hall of Fame. In September, he and his wife traveled from their home in Chicago to Buffalo for the Bills' home opener. It was their first trip since the beginning of the pandemic. The 97-year-old coach received rock-star treatment while waiting for his flight.

"Fans were all over Marv, kissing and hugging, taking pictures and selfies," Fran Levy said.

"On the plane, they surrounded him when he was sitting in the aisle seat. When we got off the plane in the Buffalo airport, it took us an hour — it's not a big airport — to get out because fans wanted to be around Marv."

Levy was introduced on the field before the game to a standing ovation from 71,000 fans, and he delivered the famous line he used to tell his players: "Where else would you rather be than right here, right now?"

The raucous crowd finished the sentence for him in unison.

"The fans in Buffalo are so deserving of a great team," Levy said. "And I've now become one of them."

NFL PLAYOFFS

Times Pacific

DIVISIONAL ROUND

Today

AFC: No. 3 Cincinnati at No. 2 Buffalo .... Noon (Ch. 2)
NFC: No. 5 Dallas at No. 2 San Francisco .... 3:30 (Ch. 11)

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Jan. 29

NFC .... Noon (Ch. 11)
AFC .... 3:30 (Ch. 2)

SUPER BOWL LVII: Feb. 12

at State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
AFC winner vs. NFC winner .... 3:30 p.m. (Ch. 11)

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meetingthe lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	33	13	.717		9-1	N1
2. Memphis	31	14	.689	1½	9-1	S1
3. Sacramento	26	19	.578	6½	7-3	P1
4. New Orleans	26	20	.565	7	3-7	S2
5. Dallas	25	22	.532	8½	4-6	S3
6. CLIPPERS	24	24	.500	10	3-7	P3
6. Golden State	23	23	.500	10	5-5	P2
6. Minnesota	24	24	.500	10	7-3	N2
9. Utah	24	25	.490	10½	5-5	N3
10. Phoenix	23	24	.489	10½	3-7	P4
11. Oklahoma City	22	24	.478	11	7-3	N4
12. Portland	21	24	.467	11½	3-7	N5
13. LAKERS	21	25	.457	12	6-4	P5
14. San Antonio	14	32	.304	19	2-8	S4
15. Houston	10	36	.217	23	0-10	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	35	12	.745		9-1	A1
2. Philadelphia	30	16	.652	4½	8-2	A2
3. Milwaukee	29	17	.630	5½	6-4	C1
4. Brooklyn	28	17	.622	6	5-5	A3
5. Cleveland	29	19	.604	6½	5-5	C2
6. Miami	25	22	.532	10	6-4	S1
6. New York	25	22	.532	10	6-4	A4
8. Atlanta	24	23	.511	11	7-3	S2
9. Indiana	23	25	.479	12½	2-8	C3
10. Chicago	21	24	.467	13	5-5	C4
11. Washington	20	26	.435	14½	5-5	S3
12. Toronto	20	27	.426	15	4-6	A5
13. Orlando	17	29	.370	17½	4-6	S4
14. Charlotte	13	34	.277	22	3-7	S5
15. Detroit	12	36	.250	23½	3-7	C5

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 106, Toronto 104	Washington 138, Orlando 118
Charlotte 122, Atlanta 118	Cleveland 114, Milwaukee 102
Minnesota 113, Houston 104	Phoenix 112, Indiana 107
Philadelphia 129, Sacram. 127	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at Dallas	1½	CLIPPERS	11:30 a.m.
at Portland	5	LAKERS	6 p.m.
at Miami	6½	New Orleans	12:30 p.m.
at Toronto	2	New York	3 p.m.
at Phoenix	OFF	Memphis	5 p.m.
at Denver	OFF	Oklahoma City	5 p.m.
at Golden State	6½	Brooklyn	5:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Sunday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, Dallas	42	475	345	1415	33.7
Embiid, Philadelphia	34	382	340	1142	33.6
Tatum, Boston	44	447	331	1371	31.2
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	35	382	296	1085	31.0
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	42	428	388	1286	30.6
Durant, Brooklyn	39	410	267	1158	29.7
James, LAKERS	36	412	171	1065	29.6
Lillard, Portland	33	293	247	963	29.2
Mitchell, Cleveland	40	390	206	1135	28.4
Morant, Memphis	38	369	234	1035	27.2
Young, Atlanta	41	350	321	1113	27.1
Brown, Boston	41	413	177	1102	26.9
Irving, Brooklyn	34	335	120	898	26.4
DeRozan, Chicago	42	390	299	1095	26.1
Jokic, Denver	41	390	215	1030	25.1
Siakam, Toronto	36	313	232	905	25.1

Let's make a deal, or not

Lakers face trade-deadline dilemmas. Who could be coming to L.A. and would it be worth making the move?

DAN WOIKE
ON THE LAKERS

As the NBA trade deadline starts to creep up, the Lakers front office faces a complicated situation that's constantly changing.

What — *Seinfeld voice* — is the deal?

There's a bit of healthy impatience in certain corners of the Lakers' locker room as the team moved past the halfway point of the season without making any notable roster moves.

Despite a recent five-game winning streak and Friday's win against Memphis, the Lakers are 21-25 and, for now, on the fringe of the postseason race.

It's led to some thumb-twiddling.

In defense of the front office, the asking prices, leaguewide, have been viewed as unreasonably high — perhaps because of the haul Utah got for All-Star center Rudy Gobert in the offseason. And the list of teams viewed as sellers is dwarfed by potential buyers — with veteran-led teams like the Lakers, Clippers, Phoenix Suns and Golden State Warriors all more or less in the play-in race and not the playoff race as January enters its final weeks.

All of this is to say that the options, at least as of today, either aren't great or are expensive.

It's why there's healthy pessimism among a mixture of scouts, executives and agents that a significant deal can be brokered.

There continue to be signals that the Lakers won't trade both of the first-round picks available to them — at this point, kind of a common sense revelation — unless some All-NBA-type player suddenly becomes available.

One deal that could be available would be for former lottery pick Cam Reddish, who has been out of the New York Knicks' rotation for nearly two months. The Knicks initially hoped to recoup the first-round pick they sent to Atlanta in trading for him, but now league insiders believe a second-round pick and an expiring contract would get a deal done.

The Lakers have two contracts that would allow that trade to work — Lonnie Walker IV and Kendrick Nunn.

Walker, despite some inconsistency, is a better scorer and shooter than Reddish and just one year older. He's rehabbing from knee tendinitis and should be returning soon.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

CAM REDDISH could be a trade target after falling out of the Knicks' rotation. A second-round pick might be enough to land him.

Nunn would be the more logical choice in a deal, but after missing all of last season and struggling through the first chunk of this one, he's found his stride in January, averaging 11 points on 47.8% shooting and hitting 36.7% from three.

In the team's heartbreaking losses to Dallas, Philadelphia and Sacramento last week, Nunn was a combined plus-32. Against Memphis, Nunn was plus-three as he scored 11 points.

Reddish has better size and fits a real need on the wing, but there's not a consensus internally that he'd be an upgrade.

There's also another reason not to make the deal, and for the Lakers, it might be the more powerful argument. If the Lakers trade Nunn for Reddish, they can't trade Nunn in a package for someone who would be way more likely to make the Lakers more of a threat.

It's the biggest issue the team is facing, the Lakers' decision-makers wrestling with "If we do this, then we can't do that later" thinking.

The team has signaled its preference to not take on another long-term contract. The Lakers project to have $30 million or so in salary-cap space this summer — not enough to fund a maximum contract but enough to put them in the conversation for some of the top potential free agents such as Kyrie Irving, James Harden and Draymond Green.

But the Lakers have come out of free agency empty-handed before. And league scouts and executives don't view the free-agency pool as particularly deep, meaning teams could look to do their spending now on the trade market.

It's why some people still view Detroit's Bojan Bogdanovic as the ideal target for the Lakers.

The cost is steep — sources in both conferences say the Pistons have been looking for a good first-round draft pick and a young player in a trade. But Bogdanovic is a deadeye three-point shooter and scorer at 6 feet 7. He's averaging a career-best 21.3 points and the Pistons clearly value him.

Though Bogdanovic is under contract for two more years and would cut significantly into the Lakers' cap space, the team likely would have plenty of suitors should they need to deal him to clear room should one of the top superstars want to play for the Lakers and sign this summer.

It's an option the Lakers would have with a player currently under contract and one that would be more complicated if the team dealt for a player on an expiring contract because of salary-cap holds and their impact on the Lakers' ability to go over the cap to re-sign their own free agents.

Still, there will be competition for Bogdanovic — there isn't a team in the league that's not looking for a wing who hits 40% of his threes at a high volume. And the Lakers have been hesitant to make a move until they get clarity on Anthony Davis' return from injury — and that should be coming this week.

The decisions are complicated, the potential ripples poised to affect the decisions to follow.

It's why they're moving so cautiously.

Clippers cannot defend recent trend

[**Clippers,** from D1]

points, with four dunks — this after 12 in his first 22 games — to continue a process that began to take shape five weeks ago. Since Dec. 12, Leonard has averaged 24.6 points, 6.5 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 41% three-point shooting during a 15-game span, a progression that has grown more pronounced in his last six games as Leonard has averaged 29.8 points on 50% three-point shooting.

In what has become by far the most encouraging trend of an uneven Clippers season, Leonard looks like the All-NBA-caliber wing he was before his 2021 knee surgery.

"Playing through our best players, that's how we want to play, that's how this team has been constructed," Lue said Friday. "When we have those guys on the floor, we know we can be a dangerous team."

As for the progress of this team, this was not what was hoped for midway through a season with designs on a title — needing every bit of its stars' offensive efficiency to outlast, by five points, a Spurs team with a 14-32 record and designs on winning the Victor Wembanyama draft sweepstakes.

One consistent culprit has been something else that has been building for one month: a defense that, as a Spurs offense that ranks among the NBA's worst can attest, is struggling to get stops.

"Offensively, we know we're going to be able to score the basketball," Lue said.

"That's very encouraging. Just now defensively we have to do a better job of locking in and understanding our principles."

Once ranked as second best in the NBA through mid-December by giving up 91.9 points per 100 possessions of half-court defense, the Clippers have tumbled to fourth worst since, giving up 104.4 points. Their transition defense has been leaky as well, but opponents have played against what should be a set Clippers defense 80% of the time in the last month. But with the Clippers regularly unable to force turnovers, Lue frequently is using lineups featuring multiple smaller guards — constructions he has acknowledged lead to defensive shortcomings — and with Leonard and George in and out of the lineup, and roles up and down the roster changing each game, the defense has sagged.

Nowhere has that been more obvious than in defending the rim.

During the season's first two months, as the Clippers were building one of the NBA's best defenses, their opponents shot a league-worst 58% on shots within six feet of the rim when the shot was defended.

Over the last month — coinciding with the start of a five-game trip against Eastern Conference teams — Clippers opponents have shot a league-high 70% on defended shots in the same area.

The Spurs shot 58% on Friday on shots generated by their 62 drives against the Clippers, the defense giving up layups on back-cuts multiple times because a defender had lost his man.

All season, the Clippers have hoped Leonard could regain his explosiveness, and after Friday, he "looks really good," Lue said. "His pop is there."

Now the wait begins on the recovery of their defense.

Note

Reserve guard Luke Kennard did not practice Saturday, according to a team spokesman. Kennard has missed the last seven games because of a calf injury he initially suffered earlier in the season. Lue has said the team has a plan for how to reorganize its glut of guards but can't implement it until Kennard returns.

Celtics 106, Raptors 104

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	41	10-23	3-3	2-8	6	0	27
Horford	27	2-10	0-0	1-7	2	3	5
Williams III	15	1-2	0-0	1-4	4	1	2
Smart	15	1-1	0-0	0-2	4	1	2
White	28	4-12	0-0	0-1	3	2	8
Brogdon	34	8-16	4-4	1-7	2	2	23
Williams	34	7-13	7-8	3-5	1	3	25
Pritchard	25	4-7	0-0	1-2	2	2	12
Kornet	8	1-1	0-0	2-4	0	1	2
Griffin	7	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Totals		38-85	14-15	11-41	25	17	106

Shooting: Field goals, 44.7%; free throws, 93.3%

Three-point goals: 16-35 (Williams 4-6, Pritchard 4-7, Brown 4-8, Brogdon 3-5, Horford 1-6, White 0-3). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Brogdon, Griffin, Horford, Kornet, Smart, White, Williams, Williams III). Turnovers: 15 (Brown 5, Williams 4, Smart 3, Brogdon 2, Pritchard). Steals: 9 (Brown 3, Horford 2, Brogdon, Pritchard, White, Williams III). Technical Fouls: None.

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anunoby	20	5-7	0-0	1-3	0	0	12
Siakam	43	14-23	1-2	1-9	10	4	29
Achiuwa	37	7-15	2-2	1-11	3	2	17
Barnes	42	4-9	0-0	0-3	5	1	10
Trent Jr.	38	9-17	2-3	0-5	3	1	22
Young	23	4-6	0-0	1-3	1	2	8
Boucher	19	3-7	0-0	2-5	0	2	6
Hernangomez	9	0-0	0-0	0-1	2	0	0
Flynn	5	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Totals		46-86	5-7	6-41	24	13	104

Shooting: Field goals, 53.5%; free throws, 71.4%

Three-point goals: 7-19 (Anunoby 2-2, Barnes 2-2, Trent Jr. 2-6, Achiuwa 1-3, Boucher 0-1, Young 0-1, Siakam 0-4). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 9 (Barnes 3, Achiuwa 2, Trent Jr. 2, Boucher, Siakam). Turnovers: 14 (Siakam 6, Achiuwa 2, Anunoby 2, Barnes 2, Trent Jr., Young). Steals: 7 (Trent Jr. 3, Achiuwa 2, Young 2). Technical Fouls: None.

Boston	26	24	31	25—106
Toronto	27	30	28	19—104

A—19,800. T—2:04.

RON SCHWANE Associated Press

LOW BLOW

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Darius Garland, left, controls a loose ball against Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday during the first half in Cleveland.

Suns 112, Pacers 107

INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hield	35	7-17	3-4	1-8	2	2	22
Nesmith	29	2-10	0-0	0-2	0	6	6
Turner	36	5-14	3-6	2-12	3	4	16
McConnell	39	8-15	1-1	2-10	12	1	18
Nembhard	21	2-9	0-0	1-1	4	5	4
Mathurin	37	6-17	11-11	1-5	0	5	23
Duarte	17	1-4	0-0	0-2	0	1	2
Smith	11	4-6	2-2	3-6	0	4	11
Brissett	11	1-4	2-2	1-2	1	1	5
Totals		36-96	22-26	11-48	22	29	107

Shooting: Field goals, 37.5%; free throws, 84.6%

Three-point goals: 13-37 (Hield 5-12, Turner 3-5, Nesmith 2-4, McConnell 1-1, Smith 1-2, Brissett 1-3, Duarte 0-2, Mathurin 0-3, Nembhard 0-5). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Turner 4). Turnovers: 14 (Hield 4, McConnell 4, Smith 4, Nembhard, Turner). Steals: 10 (Hield 2, McConnell 2, Nesmith 2, Brissett, Duarte, Mathurin, Nembhard). Technical Fouls: None.

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	20	0-2	0-0	1-4	1	1	0
Saric	8	0-1	1-2	0-2	3	0	1
Biyombo	29	6-12	0-3	2-16	2	3	12
Bridges	38	9-19	2-2	2-4	4	2	22
D.Lee	26	6-13	2-3	0-2	1	1	16
Okogie	34	6-11	11-15	4-10	4	3	24
S.Lee	29	2-6	6-8	1-4	4	5	12
Wainright	19	2-7	0-0	0-2	3	3	6
Washington Jr.	17	3-13	0-0	0-1	4	2	9
Landale	17	4-7	2-2	4-10	1	0	10
Totals		38-91	24-35	14-55	27	20	112

Shooting: Field goals, 41.8%; free throws, 68.6%

Three-point goals: 12-31 (Washington Jr. 3-6, S.Lee 2-4, Bridges 2-5, D.Lee 2-5, Wainright 2-7, Okogie 1-2, Craig 0-1, Saric 0-1). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Okogie 4, Biyombo 3, Landale). Turnovers: 15 (S.Lee 4, Bridges 3, D.Lee 2, Landale 2, Biyombo, Craig, Okogie, Washington Jr.). Steals: 9 (Bridges 4, Wainright 2, Craig, D.Lee, Okogie). Technical Fouls: None.

Indiana	27	30	26	24—107
Phoenix	29	30	28	25—112

A—17,071. T—2:31.

Washington 138, Orlando 118

ORLANDO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Banchero	28	5-12	4-6	1-1	4	1	15
F.Wagner	26	5-11	9-10	0-4	1	3	20
Carter Jr.	31	5-9	0-0	1-9	2	0	11
Fultz	29	8-14	4-4	1-5	8	3	23
G.Harris	19	3-4	0-0	0-1	2	3	9
Ross	23	3-9	0-0	0-1	2	0	8
Anthony	21	3-7	0-0	0-6	1	1	6
Bamba	19	3-6	0-0	2-8	2	3	8
Bol	16	4-9	3-4	2-4	0	1	11
Suggs	12	1-4	0-0	0-0	1	4	3
M.Wagner	8	2-5	0-0	2-2	1	0	4
Schofield	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		42-90	20-24	9-41	24	19	118

Shooting: Field goals, 46.7%; free throws, 83.3%

Three-point goals: 14-34 (Fultz 3-4, G.Harris 3-4, Bamba 2-4, Ross 2-5, Carter Jr. 1-2, F.Wagner 1-2, Banchero 1-4, Suggs 1-4, Anthony 0-1, Bol 0-2, M.Wagner 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 10 (Bol 4, Anthony 3, Carter Jr. 2, G.Harris). Turnovers: 10 (Anthony 2, Carter Jr. 2, Bol, F.Wagner, Fultz, G.Harris, M.Wagner, Suggs). Steals: 3 (Anthony, Fultz, Suggs). Technical Fouls: None.

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kuzma	31	9-20	2-6	1-10	6	0	25
Porzingis	22	3-10	10-10	1-6	0	2	17
Gafford	24	6-8	2-2	4-8	2	6	14
Beal	27	7-14	1-1	1-4	8	3	17
Morris	24	4-5	0-0	0-1	6	0	10
Hachimura	29	13-22	1-2	0-5	0	1	30
Avdija	24	0-5	0-2	0-4	0	2	0
Wright	23	5-5	2-2	1-3	8	2	15
Kispert	15	3-4	0-0	0-1	1	0	8
Gibson	12	1-2	0-0	1-3	2	2	2
Gill	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Totals		51-95	18-25	9-46	34	18	138

Shooting: Field goals, 53.7%; free throws, 72.0%

Three-point goals: 18-34 (Kuzma 5-11, Wright 3-3, Hachimura 3-5, Beal 2-3, Kispert 2-3, Morris 2-3, Porzingis 1-3, Avdija 0-3). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Hachimura 2, Gafford, Kuzma, Porzingis). Turnovers: 8 (Gibson 3, Porzingis 2, Beal, Gafford, Kuzma). Steals: 6 (Wright 3, Avdija, Gafford, Morris). Technical Fouls: None.

Orlando	26	31	34	27—118
Washington	37	33	30	38—138

A—18,171. T—2:15.

Hornets 122, Hawks 118

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
McDaniels	24	3-8	0-0	0-1	3	5	7
Washington	37	8-14	3-3	0-6	6	1	23
Plumlee	29	11-14	3-4	5-11	2	0	25
Hayward	25	4-9	1-1	0-5	5	2	9
Rozier	38	11-25	5-5	0-3	5	3	34
Smith Jr.	27	2-7	4-4	0-1	7	4	8
McGowens	26	3-6	0-0	0-2	0	1	7
M.Williams	18	3-5	2-3	0-5	0	1	8
Thor	13	0-1	1-2	1-2	0	1	1
Totals		45-89	19-22	6-36	28	18	122

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 86.4%

Three-point goals: 13-34 (Rozier 7-13, Washington 4-7, McDaniels 1-4, McGowens 1-4, Hayward 0-1, Thor 0-1, Smith Jr. 0-4). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Hayward 2). Turnovers: 12 (Smith Jr. 4, Rozier 3, Thor 3, Hayward, McGowens). Steals: 11 (Rozier 4, M.Williams 3, Hayward, Plumlee, Smith Jr., Washington). Technical Fouls: coach Steve Clifford, 00:00 second.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	33	3-7	4-4	0-5	2	6	11
Hunter	36	10-16	3-3	0-4	2	3	25
Capela	23	5-5	2-2	3-9	0	2	12
Murray	37	11-20	0-0	0-3	3	0	26
Young	37	9-22	7-9	0-5	12	2	25
Okongwu	24	1-1	1-2	1-7	0	2	3
Griffin	23	5-7	0-0	0-2	3	2	13
A.Holiday	15	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	3
Johnson	8	0-3	0-0	2-5	1	1	0
Totals		45-83	17-20	6-40	24	20	118

Shooting: Field goals, 54.2%; free throws, 85.0%

Three-point goals: 11-25 (Murray 4-6, Griffin 3-3, Hunter 2-5, A.Holiday 1-2, Collins 1-4, Johnson 0-1, Young 0-4). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Okongwu 2, A.Holiday, Capela). Turnovers: 16 (Young 6, Collins 3, Murray 3, Hunter 2, Capela, Okongwu). Steals: 5 (Capela 2, A.Holiday, Griffin, Murray). Technical Fouls: None.

Charlotte	25	24	36	37—122
Atlanta	31	34	28	25—118

A—17,928. T—2:18.

Cavaliers 114, Bucks 102

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Connaughton	35	5-11	2-3	2-7	4	0	15
Portis	30	9-16	0-0	2-11	1	2	23
B.Lopez	34	5-14	0-0	0-5	0	4	10
G.Allen	27	2-4	3-3	1-3	1	4	8
Holiday	37	12-27	3-3	1-4	10	1	28
Ingles	28	3-4	0-0	0-3	2	3	8
Hill	17	1-3	2-2	1-1	2	1	5
Carter	12	1-3	0-0	0-0	3	1	2
Nwora	11	1-2	0-0	0-2	1	1	3
Green	4	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		39-86	10-11	7-36	24	17	102

Shooting: Field goals, 45.3%; free throws, 90.9%

Three-point goals: 14-39 (Portis 5-8, Connaughton 3-8, Ingles 2-2, Nwora 1-2, G.Allen 1-3, Hill 1-3, Holiday 1-5, Carter 0-1, Green 0-1, B.Lopez 0-6). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 6 (B.Lopez 4, G.Allen, Holiday). Turnovers: 14 (Holiday 6, B.Lopez 3, G.Allen 3, Connaughton, Portis). Steals: 3 (Hill, Holiday, Nwora). Technical Fouls: None.

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
E.Mobley	37	19-27	0-1	3-9	3	1	38
Okoro	24	3-5	2-4	2-3	2	1	9
J.Allen	27	6-10	0-0	1-6	2	3	12
Garland	35	9-16	2-2	1-3	10	2	21
LeVert	28	4-10	2-4	0-3	7	2	13
Osman	22	4-7	4-4	1-3	3	0	13
Rubio	18	1-6	1-2	0-3	5	2	3
Love	18	2-3	0-0	1-7	0	0	5
Stevens	16	0-2	0-0	0-3	1	0	0
Wade	10	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Totals		48-86	11-17	9-41	33	13	114

Shooting: Field goals, 55.8%; free throws, 64.7%

Three-point goals: 7-22 (LeVert 3-6, Love 1-2, Okoro 1-2, Garland 1-3, Osman 1-3, E.Mobley 0-2, Rubio 0-2, Stevens 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (J.Allen, Okoro, Wade). Turnovers: 9 (E.Mobley 4, J.Allen 2, Garland, LeVert, Rubio). Steals: 9 (Garland 2, J.Allen 2, Okoro 2, Rubio 2, LeVert). Technical Fouls: Cavaliers, 6:46 first.

Milwaukee	26	21	34	21—102
Cleveland	23	27	36	28—114

A—19,432. T—2:09.

Timberwolves 113, Rockets 104

HOUSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Eason	26	5-11	3-4	5-9	1	2	14
Martin Jr.	30	6-12	3-4	2-9	2	2	15
Sengun	37	7-9	4-10	2-16	7	2	19
Gordon	33	7-13	0-0	0-4	3	2	16
Green	32	3-13	3-6	0-0	2	1	10
Tate	21	2-4	2-4	2-3	4	3	8
Mathews	17	2-3	4-5	1-2	1	2	9
Christopher	14	5-9	0-0	1-4	1	1	10
Washington Jr.	14	1-3	0-0	0-2	1	3	3
Garuba	10	0-2	0-0	2-7	2	1	0
Totals		38-79	19-33	15-56	24	19	104

Shooting: Field goals, 48.1%; free throws, 57.6%

Three-point goals: 9-24 (Tate 2-2, Gordon 2-6, Sengun 1-1, Eason 1-2, Mathews 1-2, Washington Jr. 1-3, Green 1-4, Christopher 0-1, Martin Jr. 0-3). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 6 (Sengun 3, Christopher 2, Garuba). Turnovers: 21 (Green 6, Sengun 4, Tate 4, Christopher 2, Martin Jr. 2, Mathews 2, Eason). Steals: 4 (Christopher, Gordon, Sengun, Washington Jr.). Technical Fouls: Rockets, 8:23 second

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anderson	33	0-7	0-0	0-7	2	3	0
McDaniels	31	2-5	1-3	0-2	0	2	5
Reid	15	2-7	1-1	1-3	1	3	5
Edwards	40	17-29	2-2	0-6	4	1	44
Russell	31	6-11	7-7	0-1	8	2	23
Knight	24	5-9	7-8	2-4	0	4	19
Rivers	22	2-4	0-0	0-2	0	3	4
Prince	21	2-4	1-1	0-2	4	2	7
Nowell	14	2-6	1-2	0-2	1	3	6
Garza	4	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Totals		38-83	20-24	3-30	20	26	113

Shooting: Field goals, 45.8%; free throws, 83.3%

Three-point goals: 17-41 (Edwards 8-16, Russell 4-6, Knight 2-3, Prince 2-3, Nowell 1-3, Anderson 0-1, Garza 0-1, McDaniels 0-2, Rivers 0-2, Reid 0-4). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 9 (Anderson 3, Edwards 3, McDaniels 2, Reid). Turnovers: 11 (Edwards 5, Anderson 2, Russell 2, McDaniels, Reid). Steals: 12 (Edwards 3, Knight 3, Prince 2, Anderson, McDaniels, Rivers, Russell). Technical Fouls: Knight, 6:03 fourth.

Houston	26	26	32	20—104
Minnesota	26	24	37	26—113

A—17,136. T—2:15.

76ers 129, Kings 127

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Harris	25	7-13	1-1	0-5	6	6	17
Tucker	19	0-1	0-0	1-3	0	3	0
Harrell	33	7-8	3-5	5-7	2	2	17
Maxey	41	12-29	6-6	0-3	6	2	32
Melton	31	4-8	4-4	2-7	5	3	14
Milton	29	5-12	4-5	2-6	7	2	15
Niang	26	7-12	0-0	2-6	2	1	17
Reed	14	4-6	1-2	4-6	0	4	9
Thybulle	13	1-1	0-0	0-2	0	3	2
House Jr.	5	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	6
Totals		49-93	19-23	16-45	28	26	129

Shooting: Field goals, 52.7%; free throws, 82.6%

Three-point goals: 12-28 (Niang 3-5, House Jr. 2-2, Melton 2-4, Harris 2-6, Maxey 2-8, Milton 1-2, Tucker 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Harrell, Melton, Reed). Turnovers: 15 (Harris 5, Melton 4, Maxey 2, Niang 2, Milton, Reed). Steals: 4 (Melton 3, Milton). Technical Fouls: 76ers, 2:36 first

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	37	8-13	5-7	1-4	1	2	27
Murray	41	4-9	2-2	1-4	1	2	13
Sabonis	37	7-10	2-4	1-9	10	3	16
Fox	38	11-19	9-10	0-4	9	2	31
Huerter	30	8-12	2-2	1-3	3	4	20
Monk	20	3-10	2-2	0-2	3	3	9
Mitchell	11	1-4	0-0	0-0	1	2	3
Lyles	11	1-3	0-2	0-1	0	1	2
Holmes	5	2-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	4
Metu	4	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Okpala	0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Len	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		46-84	22-29	4-29	28	20	127

Shooting: Field goals, 54.8%; free throws, 75.9%

Three-point goals: 13-33 (Barnes 6-9, Murray 3-8, Huerter 2-4, Mitchell 1-3, Monk 1-5, Lyles 0-1, Sabonis 0-1, Fox 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Holmes 2, Monk 2, Murray). Turnovers: 8 (Sabonis 4, Metu 2, Fox, Okpala). Steals: 6 (Huerter 3, Fox 2, Monk). Technical Fouls: Kings, 3:46 first.

Philadelphia	27	37	38	27—129
Sacramento	35	39	22	31—127

A—17,861.

White was a Trojan till the very end

[**Plaschke,** from D1] panied by the USC marching band, its familiar strains sending him off to fight on through eternity.

"Go now," his ex-wife, Judi White-Basch, whispered through the music. "Run free."

::

He broke tackles until the end. He was forever a Trojan. He was forever Charles White.

The final weeks in the life of USC's most prolific running back were a compelling testament to a man who turned a troubled life into triumph.

The college football star who flattened defenders while rushing for the most yards in USC history battled the horrors of esophageal cancer without a word of complaint.

"He had to be in agony, but he never showed it, never talked about it, never even grimaced," White-Basch said. "Until his last breath, he was a true Trojan."

The human steamroller who spent his last few years suffering from dementia likely caused by a traumatic brain injury summoned his faculties to honor one of his successors.

"We were watching the Heisman Trophy ceremony and he pointed to the TV and said one word," White-Basch recalled. "He said, 'Caleb.' "

A key member on the 1978 USC national championship team who had been estranged from the school for several years because of a drug addiction was reunited with the Trojans when the school arranged for him to be treated by the physicians from Keck Medicine of USC.

"Our doctors understand the power of the Trojan family," athletic director Mike Bohn said.

It is a power that not only coursed through Charles White in life, but also carried him home in death.

::

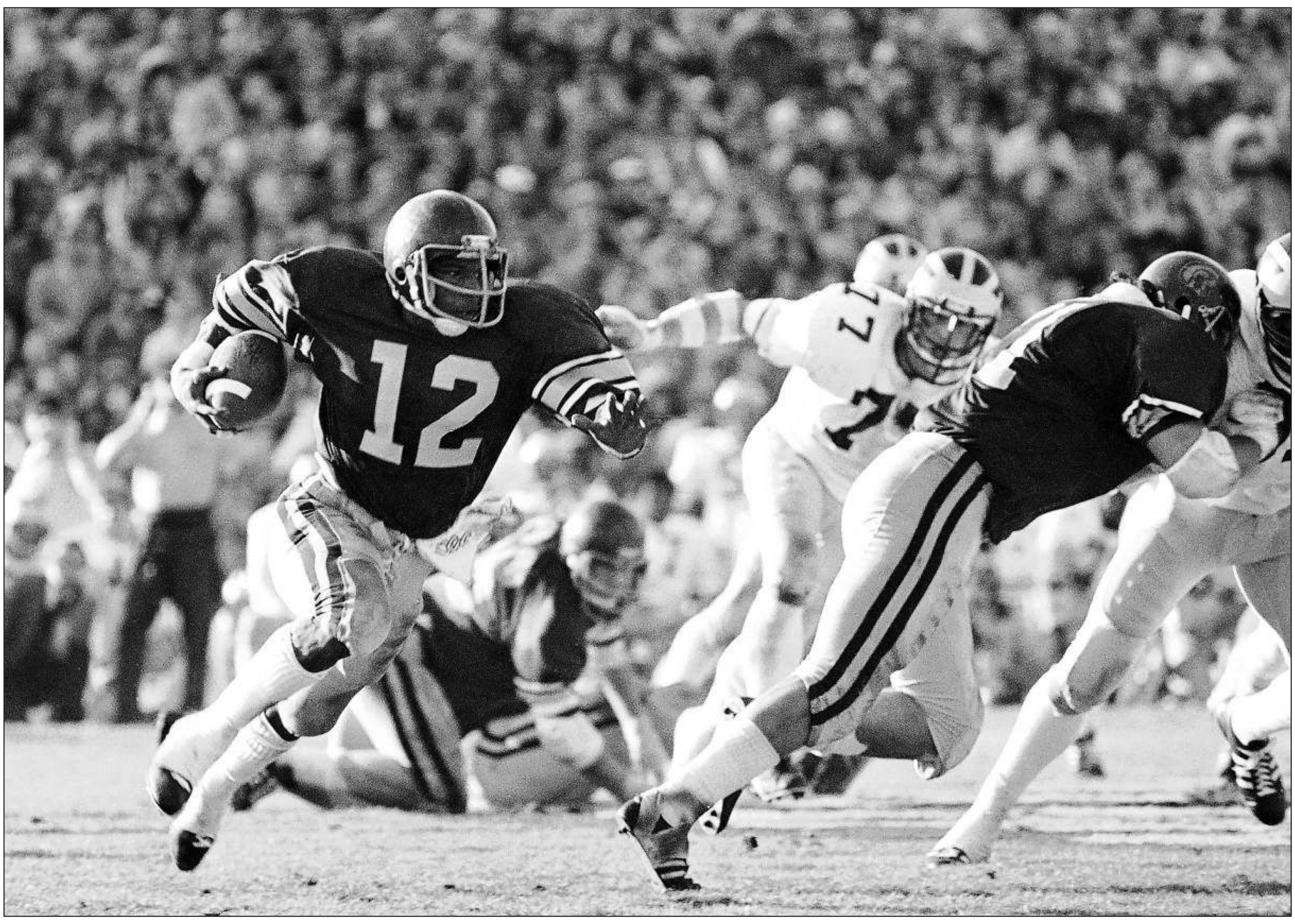
This wasn't the ending anyone expected.

Last summer this column featured the tale of White's decline into dementia and his solitary existence in a Laguna Beach assisted living facility. He seemingly had been forgotten by all but his closest family members. USC had not spoken to him in years. He wandered the halls wearing Trojans gear and loving a school that seemingly no longer loved him back.

But then in October he fell ill, and USC showed up, and his devotion to the Trojans grew even stronger, and in the end, White was back in the cardinal-and-gold huddle, filled with forgiveness, resting in peace.

"Forget about his legend on the field, how he handled himself in his last days was something I didn't think was humanly possible," White-Basch said. "No pain, no fear, no boundaries, pure love."

The day before his death, he was wearing a USC jersey and USC sweatpants tucked under a USC blanket.



Associated Press

CHARLES WHITE runs past the Michigan defense during the 1979 Rose Bowl in Pasadena. White shared most-valuable-player honors in the Trojans' 17-10 win. He led the NCAA in rushing that season and the next, when he won the Heisman Trophy.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

WHITE and his daughter Tara show their Trojans spirit last summer at a memory care center where White, who was suffering from dementia, was living.

Hours before his death, Keck doctors were at his side and Bohn was texting his family.

Minutes before his death, White-Basch and daughter Tara stood in front of his bed, flashing the Trojans' trademark two fingers, rocking back and forth in tears.

"He was a Trojan until his dying breath," White-Basch said. "And that was the literal truth."

A public memorial service will be held Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. at Saddleback Church on 1 Saddleback Parkway in Lake Forest. His remains are being cremated with the ashes to be kept in a USC-adorned urn.

Bohn said the school plans to honor White during a game next season. He is the first of its record eight Heisman Trophy winners to die. A CW jersey patch might be nice.

"We're going to honor him in the fall when fans can join the salute," Bohn said. "Charles was a great Trojan who left us too soon, and we'll make sure his legacy and contributions on and off the field will be remembered forever."

The greatest contribution from White actually might occur after his death. The White family has arranged for his brain to be donated to Boston University's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center for study. CTE is a degenerative, progressive brain disease that has been diagnosed in former football players who were subject to repeated hits to the head.

The family believes CTE could have led to White's drug addiction and ensuing dementia. They cringe at the idea that the very thing that so endeared White to Trojans fans — his willingness to run over people — could have been the thing that eventually caused the school to divorce him.

"It all makes sense that the brain injury led to everything else," White-Basch said. "We just want everyone to know the truth."

After a historic four-year career at USC, White spent nine years absorbing hits in the NFL for the Cleveland Browns and the Rams. Since his death, his family has watched his highlight videos with a tinge of sadness.

"Instead of seeing every big hit and going, 'Yeah, that's great!,' you're like, 'Oh no!' " his daughter Tara said. "You realize, with every big hit, he's suffering. These older guys put their life on the line with no protection. They didn't know, we didn't know, and now everybody is trying to sweep them under the rug and hope it goes away."

USC seemingly had swept away White, but after it learned of his dementia last summer, officials reached out and there was an attempt to bring White back to campus. But then he was stricken with massive dental problems, and by the time his mouth was fixed, he had stopped eating. Esophageal cancer was diagnosed, and it was the beginning of the end.

"He went downhill so quick," Tara said. "But every time doctors asked how he was feeling, he would just say, 'Fine, thank you very much.' "

His family said he never grimaced, never even flinched, the same thing his teammates always said about him after 10-yard plows up the middle.

"He was so strong for all of us," Tara said. "It was so scary, yet he never showed any signs of fear."

There was chemotherapy, radiation, a loss of 20 pounds, a feeding tube, pneumonia, a transfer from his assisted living home to a skilled-nursing center to the hospital and back to the skilled nursing center, a dizzying fall into a desperate morass.

From late October until his death, nearly every day brought a new trauma.

Before Bohn arranged for Keck doctors to become involved, the family mourned the unfairness of his previous two years of virtual isolation from USC friends and fans. Once they finally knew his story, he was too sick to receive visitors.

"We know he belongs to the world, but the world had nothing to do with him, the world cast him aside," White-Basch said. "But he never lost his spirit."

When his ex-wife and daughter asked White how he was doing, he would snap his fingers, shake his body up and down as if eluding a tackle, move his arms as if he were sprinting to glory.

Yet the dementia compounded his medical issues and he was soon on an inexorable downhill slide. His other children Nicole, Julian, Ashton and Sophia, with granddaughter Giovanna Hemmen, had spent time with him throughout his illness and had said their goodbyes. The end was approaching fast.

"He was so weak, he didn't have a fighting chance," White-Basch said. "He was only alive because he was Charles White."

But goodness, he never stopped being Charles White. He wore USC gear every day until it was pulled off his back. And then, he insisted that his USC sneakers and cap and watch be placed by the bed so he could see them.

That's how he died, with Tara lying next to him and Judi holding his hand and "Conquest!" filling the heart of this fallen, risen and greatest of Trojans.

"He lived that song," White-Basch said.

"And now he'll hear it forever."

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Sparks acquire Hamby and a first-round pick from Aces

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Sparks made their second trade of the offseason Saturday, acquiring forward **Dearica Hamby** and a 2024 first-round draft pick from the Las Vegas Aces.

The Sparks sent negotiating rights to forward **Amanda Zahui B**. and a 2024 second-round pick to the defending champion Aces.

Hamby, the sixth player of the year in 2019 and 2020 before becoming an All-Star in 2021 and 2022, has spent her entire eight-year WNBA career with the Aces franchise after getting drafted by the team when it was in San Antonio in 2015. She signed a two-year contract extension before last season. Starting 32 of 34 regular-season games last year, Hamby averaged 9.3 points per game, her fewest since 2018, and 7.1 rebounds. A knee injury limited her to 8.7 minutes in six postseason appearances as the Aces defeated the Connecticut Sun in the WNBA Finals.

At the Aces' championship parade, Hamby announced she was expecting her second child, and her pregnancy appeared to cause a rift between the WNBA veteran and the organization.

In a statement on Instagram on Saturday, Hamby wrote she was "heartbroken" about the way her tenure in Las Vegas ended, accusing the Aces of bullying, manipulation and discrimination. She wrote members of the organization failed to follow through on promises used to entice her to sign the contract extension, questioned her commitment to the team after getting pregnant and told her she "was not taking [her offseason] workouts seriously," despite working with team and personal trainers throughout her pregnancy.

After Hamby's statement, the WNBA Players Assn. announced it will "seek a comprehensive investigation to ensure that her rights under the collectively bargained provisions of the 2020 CBA, as well as her rights and protections under state and federal law, have not been violated."

— THUC NHI NGUYEN

The Atlanta Dream acquired Olympic gold-medalist **Allisha Gray** in a trade that sent a pair of first-round picks to the Dallas Wings.

The deal gives the Wings the No. 3 overall pick in this year's draft, along with the Dream's first-round pick in 2025.

Gray, the WNBA rookie of the year in 2017, heads to Atlanta after a career-best season with the Wings.

Charlotte point guard **LaMelo Ball** was ruled out of the Hornets' game against the Atlanta Hawks with a sore left ankle and right knee soreness. … Boston guard **Marcus Smart** and center **Robert Williams** missed the second half of the Celtics' game at Toronto because of right ankle and hyperextended knee injuries, respectively.

ETC.

Shiffrin remains tied with Vonn for record

American skier **Mikaela Shiffrin's** pursuit of a record-breaking 83rd World Cup victory is still on hold.

Shiffrin finished seventh, 0.39 seconds behind Slovenian winner **Ilka Stuhec** in a downhill on the course that will be used for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Shiffrin therefore remained tied with former teammate **Lindsey Vonn** for the women's record at 82 wins each.

Aleksander Aamodt Kilde won the second men's World Cup downhill on the demanding Streif course after overcoming two eventful days in the posh resort in Kitzbuehel, Austria.

Montreal Canadiens forward **Cole Caufield** will require season-ending surgery on his right shoulder, the team announced. The 22-year-old had 36 points, including 26 goals, in 46 games this season.

Pro Football Hall of Fame safety **Ed Reed** won't be the next football coach at Bethune-Cookman after the Ed Reed Foundation announced on social media that the university declined to ratify Reed's contract and "won't make good on the agreement we had in principle, which had provisions and resources best needed to support the student athletes."

The decision comes less than a week after Reed ripped the school in a profanity-laced social media post that went viral.

He accused Bethune-Cookman of having a dirty campus and failing to clean his office before he arrived.

He threatened to leave then, saying he was having to "clear out trash" while not even being under contract.

Reed apologized the following day for "my lack of professionalism“ and addressed it again Saturday during an emotional farewell news conference.

Jamahal Hill defeated **Glover Texeira** by unanimous decision to claim the light-heavyweight crown at UFC 283 in Rio de Janeiro. In the flyweight title bout, **Brandon Moreno** got a TKO victory over **Deiveson Figueiredo**.

Sal Bando, a three-time World Series champion with the Oakland Athletics and former Milwaukee Brewers executive, has died. He was 78. The family said the former third baseman lost a battle with cancer that began over five years ago. … **Bill Schonely**, the longtime Portland Trail Blazers broadcaster who coined the phrase "Rip City," has died. He was 93.

PAC-12 STANDINGS

	Conf.		Overall	
TEAM	W	L	W	L
UCLA	8	1	17	3
Utah	7	3	14	7
Arizona	6	3	17	3
Arizona State	6	3	15	5
USC	6	3	14	6
Oregon	5	4	11	9
Washington State	4	5	9	11
Washington	4	6	12	9
Colorado	3	6	11	9
California	2	6	3	16
Stanford	2	7	7	12
Oregon State	1	7	7	12

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

No. 11 Arizona 58, No. 5 UCLA 52
USC 77, Arizona State 69
Utah 86, Washington 61
Stanford 71, Oregon 64

TODAY'S GAMES

Oregon State at California, noon
Washington State at Colorado, 3 p.m.

USC 77, ARIZONA STATE 69

USC

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Morgan	25	1-2	2-2	1-2	0	4	4
Ellis	35	7-16	0-0	0-6	4	2	18
Johnson	32	2-5	4-4	2-6	2	1	8
Peterson	38	7-11	2-2	1-8	4	1	19
White	32	5-10	2-2	2-7	1	5	12
Dixon-Waters	14	0-3	2-2	0-0	2	3	2
Iwuchukwu	14	5-8	2-2	3-5	0	2	12
Sellers	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Totals		**28-57**	**14-14**	**9-34**	**14**	**18**	**77**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.1%; free throws, 0.0%

Three-point goals: 7-18 (Ellis 4-10, Peterson 3-6, Dixon-Waters 0-1, Johnson 0-1). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Peterson 2, Iwuchukwu). Turnovers: 18 (Peterson 6, Dixon-Waters 4, White 3, Iwuchukwu 2, Ellis, Johnson, Morgan). Steals: 8 (Ellis 3, Peterson 3, Dixon-Waters, Morgan). Technical Fouls: None.

ARIZONA ST.

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Washington	34	7-12	7-9	5-8	2	1	21
Dev.Cambridge	17	4-7	1-2	4-4	1	5	9
Des.Cambridge	31	5-15	2-2	3-5	3	0	15
Collins	28	3-6	0-2	0-1	3	1	6
Horne	17	0-5	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Neal	22	1-4	2-2	0-5	3	4	4
Nunez	22	2-4	2-2	0-0	1	2	8
Gaffney	15	1-5	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Muhammad	7	1-6	0-0	0-2	0	0	2
Brennan	6	1-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	2
Totals		**25-65**	**14-19**	**13-27**	**14**	**16**	**69**

Shooting: Field goals, 38.5%; free throws, 73.7%

Three-point goals: 5-22 (Des.Cambridge 3-11, Nunez 2-3, Horne 0-1, Muhammad 0-1, Collins 0-2, Gaffney 0-2, Neal 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Washington 2, Dev.Cambridge, Neal). Turnovers: 11 (Washington 3, Horne 2, Neal 2, Brennan, Des.Cambridge, Gaffney, Nunez). Steals: 9 (Des.Cambridge 4, Washington 2, Collins, Muhammad, Nunez). Technical Fouls: None.

USC	**43**	**34–**	**77**
Arizona St.	**33**	**36–**	**69**

A–10,505 (14,198).

Ross D. Franklin Associated Press

KOBE JOHNSON shoots over Arizona State forward Warren Washington during the first half in Tempe, Ariz. Washington scored 21 points to lead all scorers.

Trojans beat Sun Devils for a sixth straight time

Peterson scores 15 of his 19 in the second half and Ellis adds 18 in a balanced attack.

USC 77
ARIZONA STATE 69

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. — Drew Peterson scored 19 points, Boogie Ellis added 18 and USC cruised to a 77-69 victory over Arizona State on Saturday night.

Peterson sank seven of 11 shots with three three-pointers for the Trojans (14-6, 6-3 Pac-12) with eight rebounds and four assists. Ellis hit four three-pointers, grabbed six boards and handed out four assists. Tre White contributed 12 points and seven rebounds before fouling out. Vincent Iwuchukwu had 12 points and five rebounds off the bench.

Warren Washington tallied 21 points and eight rebounds to pace the Sun Devils (15-5, 6-3). Desmond Cambridge Jr. scored 17 but made just three of 11 from three-point range.

USC used a balanced scoring attack, getting nine points from Ellis and eight each from Kobe Johnson, White and Iwuchukwu, to take a 43-33 lead at halftime.

Peterson, who scored 15 of his 19 points after the break, sandwiched a three-pointer between two Ellis baskets as the Trojans scored the first seven points of the second half and never were threatened. An Ellis dunk gave USC its biggest lead, 77-53 with 4:35 left.

USC beat Arizona State for the sixth straight time. The Trojans are 10-0 when their tip-off time is 7 p.m. PST or later.

Rick Scuteri Associated Press

JAIME JAQUEZ JR., defended by Arizona guard Cedric Henderson Jr., said the Bruins weren't prepared.

Bruins' 14-game winning streak ends

[**UCLA,** from D1]

late, especially in the last two minutes of the game," UCLA forward Jaime Jaquez Jr. said. "We weren't as prepared as we should have been and I take responsibility for that, not getting guys ready."

There was momentary hope for a team that trailed by 12 points with less than two minutes left. UCLA center Adem Bona's layup pulled his team to within 56-52 before a wild sequence got the Bruins the ball back with 12.8 seconds left.

Arizona broke the Bruins' full-court press, finding Azuolas Tubelis under the basket. But Tubelis had his shot blocked by a fast-closing Jaquez before a putback by Pelle Larsson was stuffed by Bona. Officials initially called goaltending before reversing the call after a lengthy review and giving the ball to the Bruins.

In a fittingly frustrating finish, point guard Tyger Campbell missed a spinning layup and Jaquez couldn't convert a tip-in before Arizona tacked on two free throws.

Cronin said his team's lack of shot-making bled over to its defense, dooming UCLA in its bid to take a commanding lead in the conference standings. The late sequence in which the Bruins got two steals from Jaylen Clark and one from Jaquez before forcing a five-second violation were not just maddening for the Wildcats.

"It shows you what you're capable of when you play with your heart and your intestinal fortitude," Cronin said. "You start playing with your mind — if you only play with your mind, your mind is on your missed shots instead of your mind needs to be on your effort."

A chance to move into position for a possible No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, appearing before the Bruins like a desert mirage, vanished amid one brick after another.

Senior guard David Singleton, the team's best shooter, missed all five of his shots. Clark made four of 13 shots on the way to 12 points. Campbell made five of 18 shots, two layups rolling off the rim, while finishing with 13 points and seven assists.

There would be no repeat of the late success for Jaquez that had nudged the Bruins past Arizona State two days earlier. Frigid from start to finish, Jaquez made five of 17 shots and scored 12 points for a team that shot 31.3% while making four of 20 three-pointers (20%). Jaquez's final three-point attempt could have pulled the Bruins to within three points with 51 seconds left.

"I thought my three in the corner was pretty open," Jaquez said, "I just missed it."

The partying intensified for Arizona students who had batted beach balls among themselves before tipoff. They arrived inside the old building with an assemblage of water sports inflatables, presumably as a nod to the spitting incident involving UCLA forward Mac Etienne a year ago. One fan wore an umbrella atop his head and several students sitting in the front row donned rain slickers.

Etienne was booed when he emerged from the tunnel below the student section, ignoring the noise as he skipped toward warmups alongside his teammates. The beach balls were deflated and the water sports inflatables removed before the game.

But good sportsmanship was not in abundance. Students broke out a "F— you, Tyger!" chant at the first dead ball. The game was 15 seconds old.

It never got any better for the Bruins.

NO. 11 ARIZONA 58, NO. 5 UCLA 52

UCLA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bona	27	5-6	1-2	2-6	1	4	11
Campbell	37	5-18	1-2	1-2	7	2	13
Clark	34	4-13	3-4	6-10	1	1	12
Singleton	35	0-5	0-0	1-2	0	2	0
Jaquez	37	5-17	1-3	3-11	2	2	12
Nwuba	10	0-0	0-0	1-2	2	4	0
McClendon	9	2-4	0-0	0-1	0	0	4
Andrews	8	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Etienne	3	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
Totals		**21-67**	**6-11**	**15-36**	**13**	**16**	**52**

Shooting: Field goals, 31.3%; free throws, 54.5%

Three-point goals: 4-20 (Campbell 2-4, Clark 1-3, Jaquez 1-6, Andrews 0-2, McClendon 0-2, Singleton 0-3). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Bona, Jaquez). Turnovers: 11 (Clark 4, Campbell 2, Jaquez 2, Bona, McClendon, Nwuba). Steals: 9 (Clark 3, Jaquez 3, Bona, McClendon, Singleton). Technical Fouls: None.

ARIZONA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
A.Tubelis	33	5-15	4-6	3-10	2	3	14
Ballo	31	4-8	8-11	2-8	1	1	16
Kriisa	36	2-9	1-1	0-4	2	1	7
Ramey	33	4-6	0-0	1-3	2	3	11
Henderson	21	0-1	0-0	0-4	1	4	0
Larsson	30	3-7	2-2	1-4	3	1	8
Boswell	16	1-3	0-0	0-2	2	0	2
Totals		**19-49**	**15-20**	**7-35**	**13**	**13**	**58**

Shooting: Field goals, 38.8%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 5-18 (Ramey 3-5, Kriisa 2-8, Henderson 0-1, Boswell 0-2, Larsson 0-2). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Ballo 2). Turnovers: 16 (Henderson 4, Kriisa 4, Ballo 3, A.Tubelis 2, Larsson 2, Ramey). Steals: 6 (Ballo 2, A.Tubelis, Boswell, Larsson, Ramey). Technical Fouls: None.

UCLA	**23**	**29–**	**52**
Arizona	**26**	**32–**	**58**

A–14,688 (14,644).

TOP 25

No. 2 Kansas run off own floor by TCU

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shahada Wells scored 17 points as No. 14 Texas Christian beat No. 2 Kansas 83-60 on Saturday in one of the worst losses in Bill Self's 20-year coaching career with the Jayhawks.

The loss halted Kansas' 16-game winning streak at home and was its second-largest loss at home under Self. The Jayhawks (15-3, 5-2 Big 12), who lost 83-82 in overtime at Kansas State on Tuesday, had not lost consecutive games in the state since 1989.

"Everything they did was perfect today," Self said of TCU (15-4, 4-3 Big 12). "They played great. They're so fast and so athletic off the bench. We actually got a ton of good looks in the first half. We missed a lot of layups. We have to be able to defend somebody, and we never defended them today."

Kansas trailed by 10 at halftime and never closed the gap within single digits. The Jayhawks shot only 32.1% in the second half.

No. 4 Alabama 85, at Missouri 64: Noah Clowney had 17 points and 14 rebounds as the Tide remained unbeaten against unranked teams.

No. 6 Gonzaga 99, at Pacific 90: Drew Timme scored 38 points as the Bulldogs (17-4, 6-1 West Coast Conference) bounced back from a stunning loss to Loyola Marymount.

No. 7 Texas 69, at West Virginia 61: Marcus Carr scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half as the Longhorns bounced back from a double-digit loss at No. 12 Iowa State.

at No. 8 Xavier 95, Georgetown 82: Zach Freemantle tied his career high with 30 points and Colby Jones had 20 to help the Musketeers (16-4, 8-1 Big East) hand the Hoyas their 29th consecutive Big East loss.

No. 9 Tennessee 77, at Louisiana State 56: Josiah-Jordan James scored a season-high 22 points in his second straight start to help send the Tigers to their sixth straight loss.

No. 10 Virginia 76, at Wake Forest 67: Armaan Franklin scored 18 of his 25 points in the first half and the Cavaliers (15-3, 7-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) survived losing most of a 19-point lead.

at Oklahoma State 61, No. 12 Iowa State 59: Avery Anderson scored 18 points, including the go-ahead free throws, and the Cowboys (11-8, 3-4 Big 12) got their first win over a ranked team this season. Cyclones sharpshooter Caleb Grill spent most of the second half on the bench wearing a back brace.

at No. 13 Kansas State 68, Texas Tech 58: Markquis Nowell had 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists as the Wildcats (17-2, 6-1 Big 12) won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Results

MEN'S TOP 25

No. 14 Texas Christian 83, No. 2 Kansas 60
No. 4 Alabama 85, Missouri 64
No. 11 Arizona 58, No. 5 UCLA 52
No. 6 Gonzaga 99, Pacific 90
No. 7 Texas 69, West Virginia 61
No. 8 Xavier 95, Georgetown 82
No. 9 Tennessee 77, Louisiana State 56
No. 10 Virginia 76, Wake Forest 67
Oklahoma State 61, No. 12 Iowa State 59
No. 13 Kansas State 68, Texas Tech 58
No. 16 Auburn 81, South Carolina 66
Duke 68, No. 17 Miami 66
No. 18 Charleston 87, Northeastern 61
No. 19 Clemson 51, Virginia Tech 50
No. 20 Marquette 74, Seton Hall 53
No. 21 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60
No. 22 Providence 75, DePaul 64
No. 24 Florida Atlantic 67, Texas El Paso 59
No. 25 Arkansas 69, Mississippi 57

WOMEN'S TOP 25

No. 5 Connecticut 79, Butler 39
No. 15 Oklahoma 97, Oklahoma State 93
No. 16 Gonzaga 82, Saint Mary's 57
No. 18 Iowa State 64, Kansas 50

No. 16 Auburn 81, at South Carolina 66: Johni Broome had a season-high 27 points and 11 rebounds as the Tigers (16-3, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) won their fifth in a row.

at Duke 68, No. 17 Miami 66: Kyle Filipowski had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Jeremy Roach had 14 points in his first game in more than two weeks to lift the Blue Devils (15-4, 5-3 ACC).

No. 18 Charleston 87, at Northeastern 61: Ben Burnham scored 15 points to lead the Cougars (21-1, 9-0 Colonial Athletic Association) to their 20th win in a row, the longest active streak in the nation.

at No. 19 Clemson 51, Virginia Tech 50: Hunter Tyson's three with 12 seconds left lifted the Tigers as they continued their surprise run on top of the ACC.

No. 20 Marquette 74, at Seton Hall 53: Kam Jones scored 22 points, Oso Ighodaro had 18 on seven-for-seven shooting and the Golden Eagles forced the Pirates' season-high 26 turnovers.

No. 21 Baylor 62, at Oklahoma 60: Jalen Bridges hit a trio of game-turning three-pointers in the final five minutes as the Bears (14-5, 4-3 Big 12) rallied to win their fourth straight.

at No. 22 Providence 75, DePaul 64: Noah Locke had a career-high 29 points, including seven threes, as the Friars (15-5, 7-2 Big East) improved to 11-0 at home.

No. 24 Florida Atlantic 67, at Texas El Paso 59: The Owls extended their record for consecutive wins to 18.

at No. 25 Arkansas 69, Mississippi 57: Anthony Black had 17 points and the Razorbacks (13-6, 2-5 SEC) ended a four-game skid.

Also

Detroit Mercy's Antoine Davis scored a season-high 42 points and moved into second place on the NCAA all-time scoring list behind only Pete Maravich. ... North Carolina State's Terquavion Smith, the leading scorer in the ACC, had to be taken off the court on a stretcher with elbow and neck injuries after he landed hard on the court.

SOUTHLAND

MEN

Long Beach State 112, at UC San Diego 110 (3 OT): Marcus Tsohonis scored 46 points, and Aboubacar Traore and Lassina Traore each had 19 rebounds as Long Beach State survived in a thriller on the road. AJ George forced a steal and dunked for the game winner with five seconds left in the third overtime.

Hawaii 67, at UC Riverside 63: Lachlan Olbrich had a game-high 21 points and 10 rebounds, but it wasn't enough for the Warriors, whose five-game winning streak came to an end. UC Riverside outrebounded Hawaii 50-37 but was held to 32% shooting.

at Portland 91, Pepperdine 76: Maxwell Lewis had 18 points to lead four Waves players in double figures, but the Pilots shot 56% from the floor and 58% from beyond the arc to hand Pepperdine its eighth loss in a row.

at UC Santa Barbara 76, Cal State Bakersfield 58: The Gauchos got 24 points and seven rebounds from Miles Norris, who shot 10 of 13 from the floor, as they cruised to their 12th win in their last 13 games.

at Cal State Northridge 69, Cal State Fullerton 66 (OT): De'Sean Allen-Eikens had 22 points to help the Matadors end their eight-game losing streak.

at California Baptist 77, Tarleton State 48: Joe Quintana scored a game-high 16 points off the bench for the Lancers, who have won four of their last five. California Baptist held the Texans, who are 0-9 on the road, to 31% shooting.

WOMEN TODAY

No. 9 UCLA at Washington State	Noon
USC at Washington	Noon

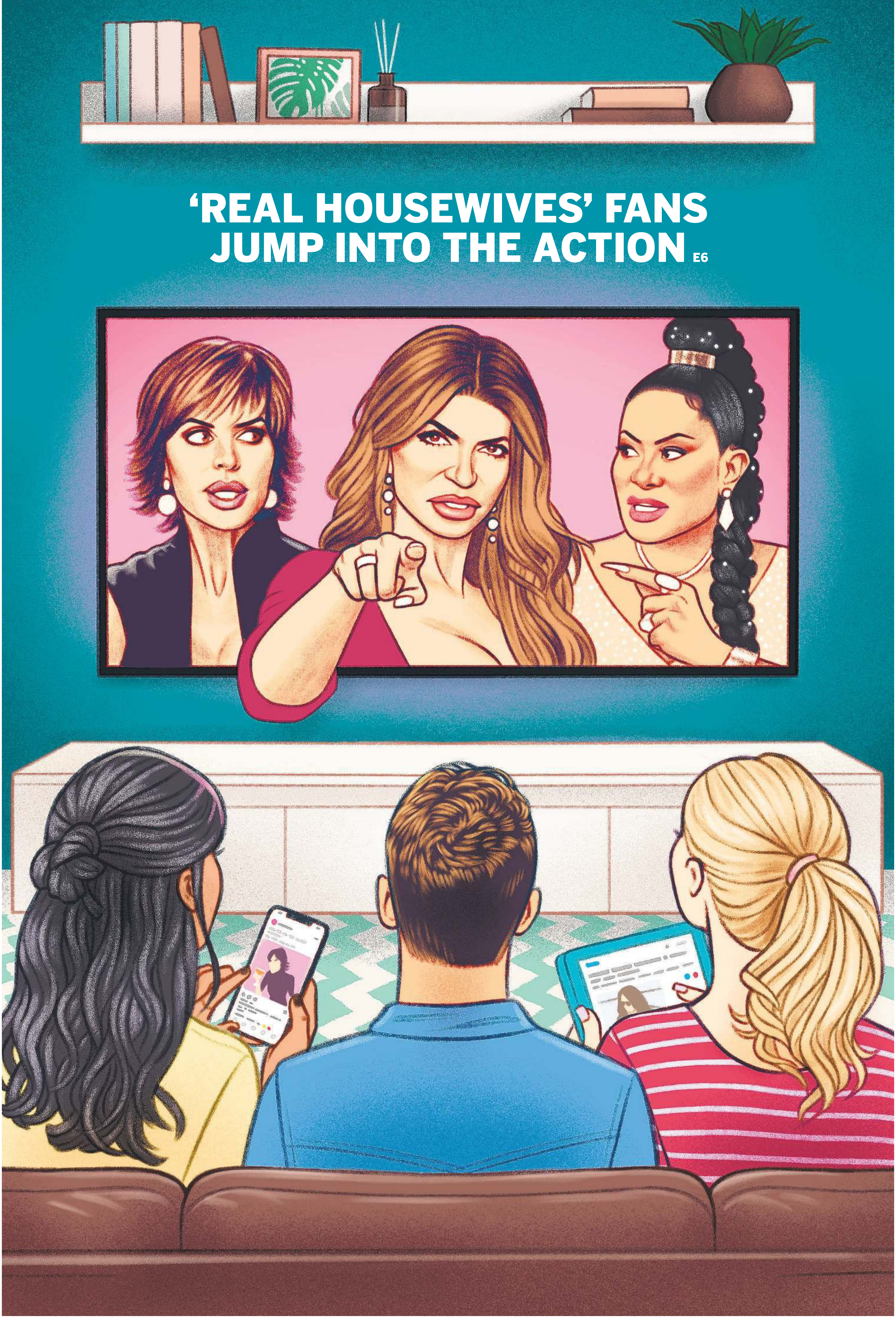
Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

'REAL HOUSEWIVES' FANS JUMP INTO THE ACTION

E6



Helen Green For The Times

ZORA NEALE HURSTON'S ANTHROPOLOGICAL MIGHT. **E3** ON THE TV SET WITH FIRST-TIME DIRECTOR MARLEE MATLIN. **E4**

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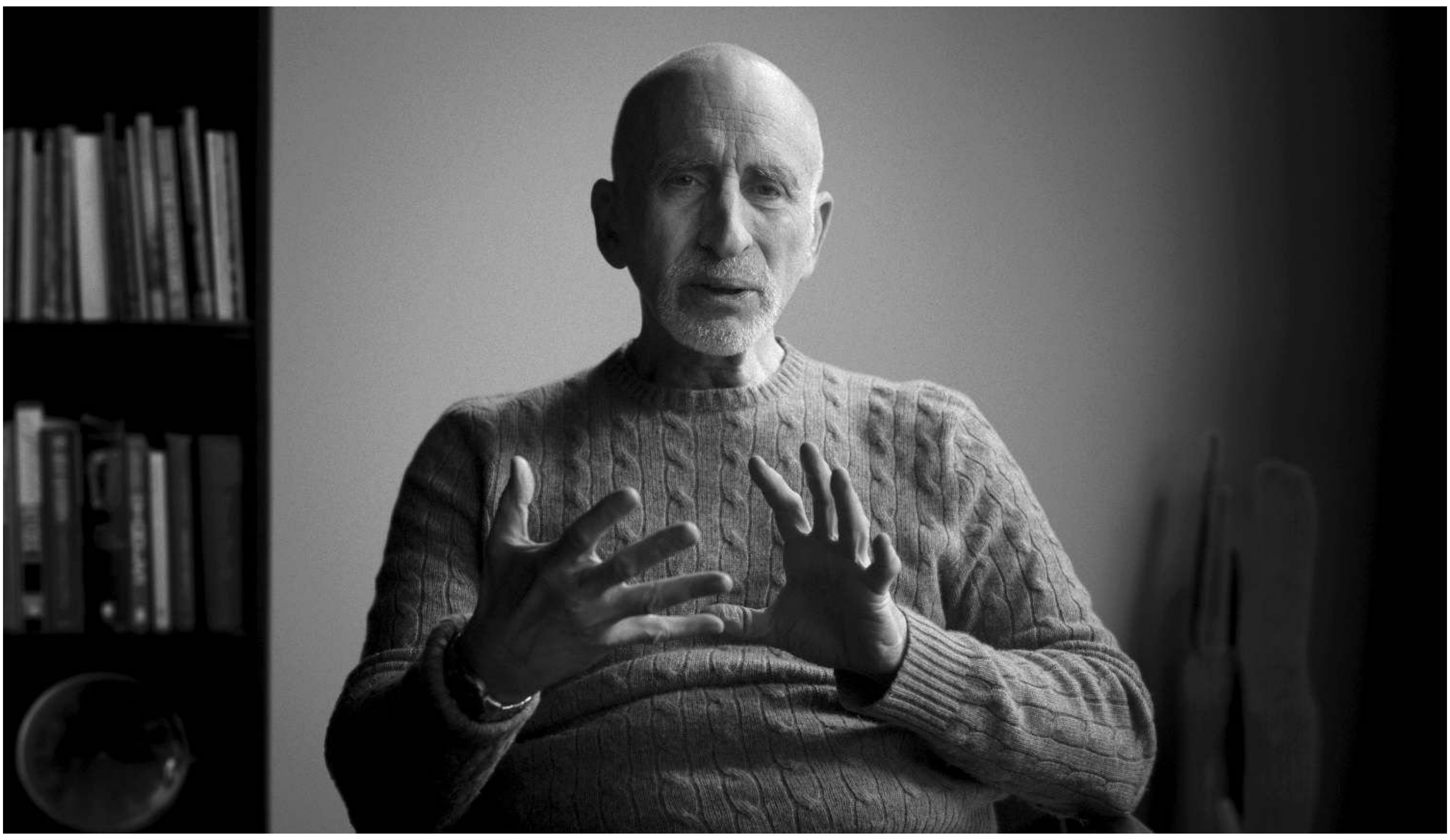
IN THERAPY WITH PHIL STUTZ, SHRINK TO THE STARS

REVELATIONS FROM A CRITIC'S HARD-TO-GET SESSION WITH THE BELOVED THERAPIST, THE SUBJECT OF A NEW DOC BY HIS PATIENT JONAH HILL



Photographs from Netflix

CHARLES McNULTY
THEATER CRITIC

ON A RECENT SUNDAY MORNING, while making what I prayed would be a quick run to Target, I received a call from the assistant of Phil Stutz, letting me know that the doctor would be able to see me at 4 p.m. that afternoon. ¶ It's not every day that the shrink to the stars finds room in his schedule for a plebeian journalist, so I rushed home with my new utensil organizer, ice trays and gigantic package of paper towels and rewatched "Stutz," the Netflix documentary that Jonah Hill made about his beloved therapist. ¶ Stutz's name, known for decades among entertainment industry elites, circulated more widely after Dana Goodyear wrote a 2011 New Yorker feature about Stutz's work and his collaboration with fellow therapist Barry Michels on their book "The Tools: Transform Your Problems Into Courage, Confidence, and Creativity." ¶ A veteran of psychotherapy, I read the book when it came out in 2012, curious about what the authors call their "spiritual approach to psychology" and wondering if a more action-oriented program might produce results more quickly than my trek through psychoanalysis, which was only just getting started after 12 long years. The book engaged my hopes before it was relegated to a lower bookshelf, where it gathered dust amid a small stack of respectable self-help guides.

Hill's documentary, which came out in November, lays bare his own insecurities and sorrows, including his feelings about his weight and its impact on his intimate relationships. The raw emotion on display in the film and the loving bond between therapist and patient reignited my interest in Stutz's practical psychology, which mixes the tough love of life coaching with a secular mysticism that aims to connect a suffering individual to a higher power, however that might be conceived. The film skirts the more ethereal aspects of this work, at least until the end when the good doctor embarks on what looks like a form of astral projection.

Trained as a psychiatrist, with a New York University medical degree, Stutz is a man of science who follows his intuition. His practice pooh-poohs Freudian protocol. Indeed, he developed his theories in reaction to what he felt was the navel-gazing passivity of traditional psychotherapy.

The antithesis of the silent shrink, he punctuates his gruff remarks with profanities, speaks liberally about his own struggles in a defiant New York accent and joshes with his patients as though they were a younger sibling. At one point in the film, Stutz teasingly tells Hill that he's been intimate with his mother, a comment that might get a more traditional psychoanalyst defrocked. But there's a method to Stutz's maverick madness.

When Goodyear wrote her article, subtitled "a cure for blocked screenwriters," Stutz was seeing patients in his modest apartment in a stucco Westside building that modeled a monastic simplicity for his high-powered Hollywood clientele. Those days are over. He now occupies a luminous lair on a high floor of a gated tower in the Century City area.

His home office, where he regularly saw patients until Zoom took over the world, is elegantly appointed with books, paintings and tasteful furnishings. I took a seat on a leather couch while he settled into one of the chairs opposite me, twisting and turning in unpredictable fashion, the product of his restless energy and symptoms of Parkinson's disease, which he talks about openly in the film.

A COUGHING FIT had him up again, hunting for cough drops while I shriveled in my seat, overtaken by my usual anxieties. I had arrived early at his building and sat for a few minutes in the lobby, using one of his tools to compose myself before meeting him. But I felt extremely self-conscious as we began our conversation, my lifelong stammer growing more cumbersome as I exhorted myself to just relax.

Sensing my discomfort, Stutz sprang into therapeutic action. He threw me a pack of unopened index cards and asked me to unwrap them. He moved beside me on the couch holding a clipboard, and with shaky

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NO BEARS 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
CHESS STORY 1:10 7:20
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 1:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:50
EO 4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 6:50 PM
TÁR R 1:00 3:50 6:45
FLYING BOAT 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30
IMMACULATE 1:20 4:10 7:10

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R 4:00 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
NO BEARS 1:20 4:20 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 7:00

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
MISSING PG-13 1:10 4:20 7:20
THE SON PG-13 4:20 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:20
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:10
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R 7:10 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
NEW GODS: YANG JIAN 1:20 4:15 7:15
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10
BEAUTIFUL BEINGS 1:00 PM
SKINAMARINK 7:10 PM
BROKER R SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 4:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 7:20
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 1:00 PM
EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 7:30 PM
DECISION TO LEAVE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 6:55 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 3:40 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
IN FROM THE SIDE 12:55 7:00
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:15
WOMEN TALKING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:15
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
SKINAMARINK 7:30 PM
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 4:00 6:55

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 4:00 PM
NO BEARS 1:15 7:30
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hands started diagramming essential aspects of his theory that would benefit a case as ostentatious as my own.

Partial to communicating key concepts to his patients through schematics, he drew a circle, then asked me to write inside it the words "I Am." Then he sketched a moon-like figure that was almost spooning the sphere representing me. Inside this shape he wrote the words "You Are Not."

"This I Am circle is the definition of who you are," he explained. "If you let anybody else get inside your head, you've lost your identity. You have to protect this."

The You Are Not shape represents what he calls Part X, the enemy. This destructive force, part of the universe, will never be vanquished. But the obstacles and difficulties it throws up can be framed as catalysts for growth. Stutz thinks of Part X as an ineradicable evil that is always threatening to nullify our being. His work is designed to prevent his patients from falling into the inertia and regression that are the common responses to hardship and unfairness.

OK, but what if the You Are Not energy has gained entry into the I Am sphere and the negativity is coming from inside the house? I posed the question as disinterestedly as possible, but it was clear I wasn't asking for a friend.

"The visitor has to be expelled," he said with barely a pause. "And the force that expels the contaminants, that source is rage. Just as if you took a piss on my office, I'd say, 'Get the [hell] out of here.' But this isn't personal rage. It has purpose, which is cleanliness. Getting rid of all the bogeys."

Psychoanalysts, he said, are helpless to tackle this problem: "Some of them have done good work, but they can't solve this because they have no plan to admit what the issue is nor do they have any tools to challenge it."

For Stutz, action, not endless speculation — or what he calls "loose talk" — is the answer.

"In Western culture, the assumption is I have to have a certain level of success in order to feel good about myself, even to feel human, but it's not true," he said. "What you have to do is take action before you know who you are. Before you know what's supposed to happen. If you can do that, then you can become confident."

PHIL STUTZ diagrams his ideas in the documentary, above, as he did in a session with the writer.

My self-deprecating remarks, a knee-jerk reflex with me, didn't amuse him. "Self-attack is a sin, and it's an ignorant sin," he said. "Not because there's nothing wrong with you. It's that we don't attack ourselves for any reason. We just don't do it, and that's a law."

But later he interrupted the discussion for some encouragement: "By the way, you're doing fantastically well so far, like *really* well. It's very heartening." He pointed out how much clearer my speech had become in just a few minutes. That usually happens when I move out of performance mode into just being mode, but Stutz's rambunctious concern invited the shift.

What separates Stutz's system from more gimmicky pop psychology is the idea that the goal isn't a specific outcome but a commitment to a sustained journey. "Personality is a process," he argues, something you discover from the steps you take in the world. His existentialist teaching is as much a spiritual education as it is therapeutic endeavor.

What does he call what he does? "I see it as a study and application of the laws of human development, whether you want to call it psychoanalysis, Sunday school or Big Ten track squad," he said. "It doesn't matter. And the little things are actually more valuable than the big things, because there are more of them — like times 100."

The tools are designed to keep a person moving forward in the face of ceaseless challenge, which is humanity's lot. "The person who needs to understand everything in order for him to assess and improve problem areas, that person is wasting his life, even with a shrink with the best of motivations," he said.

WHY HAS his work caught on in Hollywood? Joaquin Phoenix and Rooney Mara are among the producers of "Stutz," and TMZ would no doubt pay a king's ransom for the files of his celebrity patients. "It's not what people think," he said. "What attracts them is that I'm very fast, I'm very intuitive and I'm very practical. It would attract anybody. It's just that these people have the money and they all know each other."

The documentary reviews the fundamentals of Stutz's psychology, but he introduced me to a tool that wasn't covered. When I was in the lobby of his building, preparing for the interview, he said I would have benefited from his cosmic rage tool. I was all ears.

"I learned this tool from two actresses in New York," he said. "What they would do when they were nervous on, say, opening nights when there were critics in the house, is that before the show started they'd stand behind the curtain and scream, '[Blank] you! Go back to Jersey! I don't give a [blank] what you think, you piece of [blank].' And then they would relax and give a credible rendering of what they were trying to do when the curtain went up."

"So I should have cursed you out when heading up in the elevator?" I asked.

"Some people do it silently, but they radiate rage, and the key of the rage is it's 360 degrees," he said. "You try to get yourself in this cosmic rage space and then keep it going."

The point, I gathered, is to harness our own power by rejecting external definitions of the self. And to see that our actions are stronger than the imagined thoughts of someone else.

He named Carl Jung as a minor influence on his work and Rudolf Steiner as a major influence. Both of these thinkers had an abiding interest in the occult, which Stutz shares. The tools he has developed are said to give the user access to higher forces that he avoids discussing in religious terms, but his psychology has an otherworldly dimension, as the film elliptically touches on near the end when he lies down on a bed and grapples with the haunting legacy of his younger brother's death in childhood.

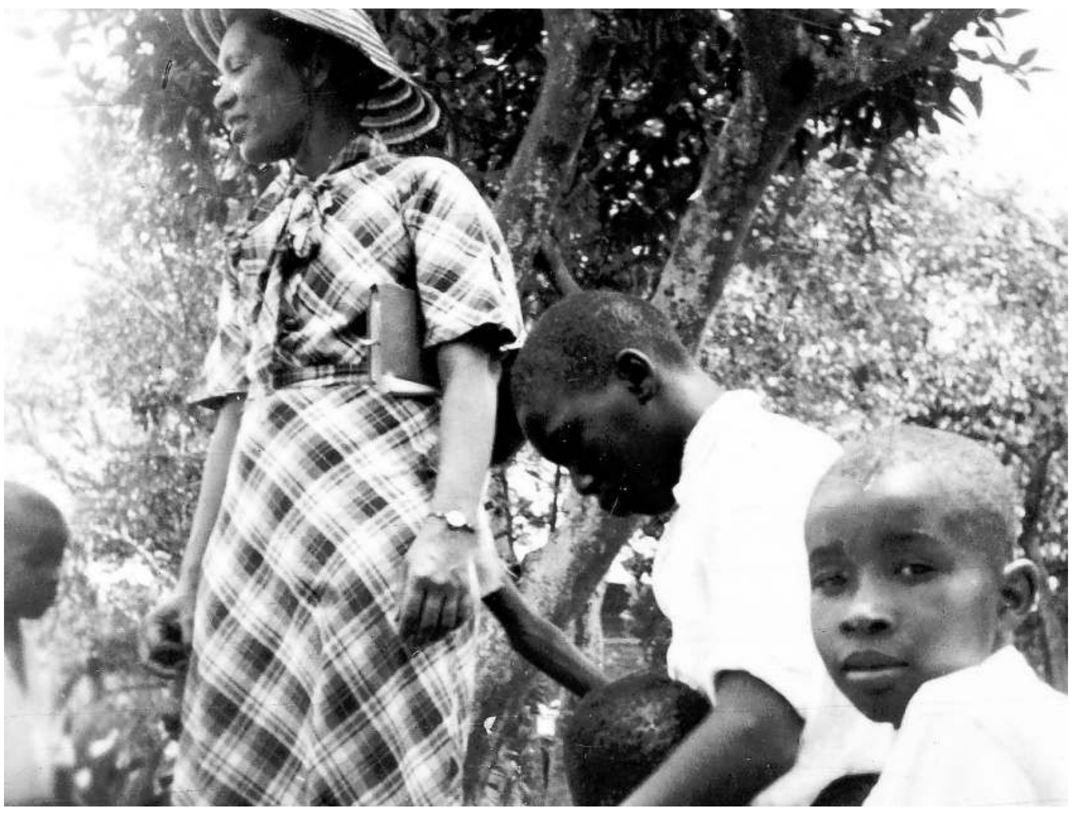
How does he feel about the film he spent years making with one of his patients? "I'll tell you exactly how I feel. Number one — Jonah is going to be a big-time, all-time director. That's my first conclusion," he said. "But the second is a little different. I thought I did a good job. I wasn't spectacular. Jonah was really spectacular. But even he, with his level of insight and courage, wasn't the highest level of what was going on. The highest level is that God dropped a bomb on Los Angeles. All the truth that came out of the movie wasn't the result of either of us. It was God dropping on us a tremendous opportunity."

Noticing that his energy was visibly drained after our intense hour together, I asked if there were any final thoughts he wanted to share before I left.

"No, actually," he said, unable to resist a teaching moment. "Don't be in that journalistic mode. Just be humble and do what I'm telling you. And remember, you're an ignorant [blank]. And that more, more, more is less, less, less."

"That was fun," he said, as he accompanied me out of his office. "I don't think I've ever done an interview like that before."

"Me either," I replied.



Photographs from the Library of Congress

A trailblazer's radical authenticity

THE NEW PBS DOCUMENTARY ON ZORA NEALE HURSTON REVEALS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AT HEART

BY CHRIS VOGNAR

ZORA NEALE HURSTON may have been buried in an unmarked grave when she died in 1960, but her star has been rising, posthumously, ever since Alice Walker brought her back to the public's attention in the late 1970s. Hurston's masterful 1937 novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" is a staple of college reading lists. Her name has been dropped on TV series ranging from "The Sopranos" to "Godfather of Harlem." She is widely seen as a trailblazer of Black feminism. And now she's the subject of a new PBS "American Experience" documentary, "Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space," which premiered last week on PBS and is available on *PBS.org*.

She's viewed largely through the lens of her fiction, particularly "Eyes," the story of a young woman striving for authenticity and independence along with romantic love. But as the new film makes clear, Hurston's work as an anthropologist was at least as important as her literary output. Traveling alone through the South in a Nash coupe in the '20s, a gun on her hip, Hurston collected songs, folk tales and life stories from Black communities seldom seen or heard. At a time when anthropology was generally viewed as a study of the other, Hurston immersed herself in the lives of her own people.

"I thought I kind of knew everything I needed to know about her," says Cameo George, the film's executive producer. "But she had a marked impact on anthropology, and how we study other cultures, and certainly African American culture. Once you understand that, and you think back to the books that you've read of hers, you really see that anthropology is an integral part of her literary voice."

On the first page of "Their Eyes Were Watching God," Hurston writes, "It was the time for sitting on porches beside the road. It was the time to hear things and talk." This is precisely what the author did as a child growing up in Eatonville, Fla., one of the oldest Black-incorporated municipalities in the U.S. As the film shows, the young Hurston would hang out on the porch of the town's general store, listening to tales tall and otherwise. They'd have to shoo her away when it was time to close. Hurston loved the people and she loved their stories. One day she would make a vocation of collecting them and weaving their tenor into her writing.

"At one point in her life she was considered the foremost authority on Black folklore," says the film's director, Tracy Heather Strain. "She had taken it upon herself to travel down South, facing a variety of dangers, to connect with communities and to collect folklore and stories and religious practices, because she realized that it was significant, it was beautiful, and that it was just one piece of the puzzle to help combat the idea that Black people had no culture."

The film benefits from another tool Hurston had at her disposal. She undertook some of her research trips under the patronage of Charlotte Osgood Mason, a wealthy socialite and philanthropist who liked to bankroll artists of the Harlem Renaissance — under her strict conditions, which included a precise accounting of every cent. Mason's money paid for a movie camera, with which Hurston captured her subjects at work and play. This footage is used throughout the documentary.

"She is likely our earliest Black female ethnographic filmmaker," says Strain, who also teaches documentary history at Wesleyan University. "We benefit from seeing these beautiful images of African Americans in the South, rural people doing their thing. You have children and adults. It was a real pleasure to work with that material, and try to incorporate it as much as possible into the documentary."

Hurston's life was no easier than those of many of her subjects. Her mother died when she was 13, triggering a period of aimlessness and grief. But she was resourceful. Publicly shaving 10 years off her age, Hurston eventually graduated from high school and went on to Howard University. She found her way to New York, where she attended Barnard College, became close friends with Langston Hughes (they later had a bad falling-out) and studied under Columbia University's Franz Boas, widely considered to be the father of American anthropology. But while she hungered for education, academic strictures rarely suited her, and her methods, ahead of their time, struck many university gatekeepers as too unorthodox.

"Eyes," Hurston's literary breakthrough, was met with critical acclaim, but it was also attacked by Black male critics, most famously Richard Wright, who wrote that the book had "no theme, no message, no thought." (Wright would get some comeuppance when James Baldwin took "Native Son" to task in the essay "Everybody's Protest Novel.") Writing in a rich vernacular, Hurston achieved her own kind of authenticity. But she was also unapologetically country at a time when, in many circles, "real" was equated with "urban" — and anything that fell outside it was a sop to old stereotypes.

"Wright wanted to dismiss what Hurston thought of as authenticity as catering to white people, or part of a minstrel technique," Strain says.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON, above and top, broke new ground as an anthropologist and a writer.

She ultimately suffered the fate of the outlier and innovator, sidelined twice over by the sexism and racism of her time. In her later years she worked as a maid, quipping that it was part of her research. She died alone in a nursing home. It was only when Walker published the essay "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston" (later titled "Looking for Zora") in Ms. magazine in 1975 that Hurston's personal renaissance was launched.

Decades later, anyone in search of Hurston should prepare to meet a complex woman. She was openly critical of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, which declared racial segregation of public schools unconstitutional. "When Brown comes out, her point is 'I don't want to have to force someone to associate with me,' " Strain says. Today she would probably be considered a libertarian.

But the filmmakers insist her importance can't be captured by labels, and that her driving principle — love for her people — would be a tremendous asset today.

"She is the ultimate booster of African Americans and African American culture," George says. "Over the last couple of years we have seen a political landscape where Black people have felt like they had to actually assert that their lives matter, because in many corners, it felt like it was up for debate. She was one of these people who said, 'This is not up for debate, and Black lives do matter, Black culture matters, and we should all respect that, enjoy it, and indulge in it.' I think that makes her as relevant today as she was in her day."

Vognar is a freelance writer based in Houston.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

Righting past wrongs on the set

MARLEE MATLIN MAKES HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT ON FOX'S 'ACCUSED,' CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE THAT NURTURES DEAF TALENT IN THE PROCESS

BY SORAYA ROBERTS

ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO

THE SET OF Marlee Matlin's directorial debut is the quietest I have ever visited. ¶ It's not completely absent sound — there is a low murmur, people quietly conferring between takes — but it is faint enough that when the DIY air conditioner kicks in and the bag overhead suddenly inflates with a bang, I jump. In the distance, I hear "Action!" and I will later hear "Cut!" but otherwise a deferentially low volume permeates the space. The source of the minimal sound is Matlin herself: small but commanding, sporting a blond bob and pink top, directing a courtroom scene with a series of hand gestures — lots of thumbs up all around — and the occasional word. I can't hear her interpreter from my position, but that's partly because the two of them are always right next to whoever they're speaking with. I do, however, hear an extras wrangler at one point loudly requesting an uptick in energy: "Big trial, big deal."

Fox

ACTORS Joshua Castille, left, Jean-Michel Le Gal, Stephanie Nogueras and Lauren Ridloff in the episode directed by Matlin, top.

It's the end of June and we're inside the huge studio complex in Etobicoke, Ontario, on Toronto's west side, where filming is underway on Fox's new crime anthology "Accused," an adaptation of creator Jimmy McGovern's ("Cracker") 2010 British original. Produced by Sony Pictures Television and premiering Sunday, each episode of the series starts with a character facing a verdict in court then dives into the story of what led them there: As executive producer Howard Gordon puts it, this is less a whodunit than a what happened.

Matlin's episode, airing Tuesday, centers around Ava, a deaf surrogate (played by deaf actor Stephanie Nogueras) who abducts the baby, who also turns out to be deaf and whose parents (Aaron Ashmore and Megan Boone) are considering cochlear implants. "Accused" uses directors with personal experience that aligns with each story, hence deaf actor Matlin, fresh off "CODA's" awards sweep, stepping behind the camera here. (Two other deaf actors also make up the cast — Joshua Castille as Ava's boyfriend and Lauren Ridloff as her public defender.) Says Gordon: "It was really compelling to us to be able to tell the story with some depth with someone who has actually been at the front line between the hearing world and the deaf world."

For her part, Matlin does not look the least bit nervous when I meet her. Through her windowed mask, to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions and allow for lip reading, she emanates competence and warmth — even on the final days of a nine-day shoot, and despite my own communications learning curve: I know to watch her instead of the interpreter — everyone on set was given a best practices sheet — but I am so habituated to watching who is speaking that I keep doing it by mistake anyway.

Matlin is, in short, the kind of person you want in charge in an emergency. During a subsequent Zoom interview, I say one of my questions is lame and she cheerfully scolds: "Stop being negative!" She reminds me of my mother, a woman who refuses *not* to brightly soldier on.

The way the "Accused" gig came to Matlin would instill positivity in anyone: Her agent mentioned to Gordon that she wanted to direct; at that precise moment, Gordon had the perfect script for her. "I guess it just happened at the right time when I was thinking about it," Matlin says. "It was almost like karma." Her initial interest came from the fact that it was a story about her community, her culture, her language. She hasn't been a surrogate, but she could identify with the "protective instinct for a baby who happens to be deaf."

Ironically, though, Gordon's initial idea was simply an episode about surrogacy, based on a real story he read about a baby with Down syndrome. It was Maile Meloy, the short story writer and friend of Gordon's to whom he had pitched the show at a party, who conceived of the idea of the deaf surrogate.

MELOY HAD already been taking American Sign Language (ASL) classes because she was working on the Netflix show "Society," which had a deaf character. When the series shut down during the pandemic, she continued learning the language and about Deaf culture. At the same time, she had read Andrew Solomon's "Far From the Tree," about traits children don't always share with their parents. Meloy realized that what Solomon had written about scientific advances outpacing the ethics around them applied to deafness as well. Matlin came on during the outline stage and read every draft.

Even before they hit the set, Meloy was convinced Matlin was up to the job. "I knew from watching her as an actress and an activist that she'd be a great director," she says. "She's so confident and magnetic that people just want to follow her."

That confidence isn't impervious to setbacks, though, and Matlin remembers the beginning of the pandemic as a difficult period. "Sometimes you felt excluded, because masks weren't always like the masks that we had on the set," Matlin says. "It didn't feel good for me as somebody who depends on lip reading." The majority of the time, she communicates face to face during a take, which I noticed during the shoot — she was either leaning over a desk next to a cast member or standing right in front of them. To communicate, Matlin uses a combination of her own voice, interpreters and signing. (There are variations between Canadian and American signing, as there are across all countries, but as Meloy points out, signing is still useful if you are speaking to someone across the room and want to keep a quiet set.)

"The only difference between the hearing actors and the deaf actors was the fact that I could sign freely with the deaf actors," Matlin says. "The actual job of directing them was the same."

Which is not to say she didn't ask for help before the shoot. Matlin reached out to a couple of people to ask what she needed to be aware of as a first-time director. And everyone told her the same thing — that she would be asked endless questions and should always have an answer prepared. She narrowed it down to five: yes, no, maybe, what do you think, and I don't know.

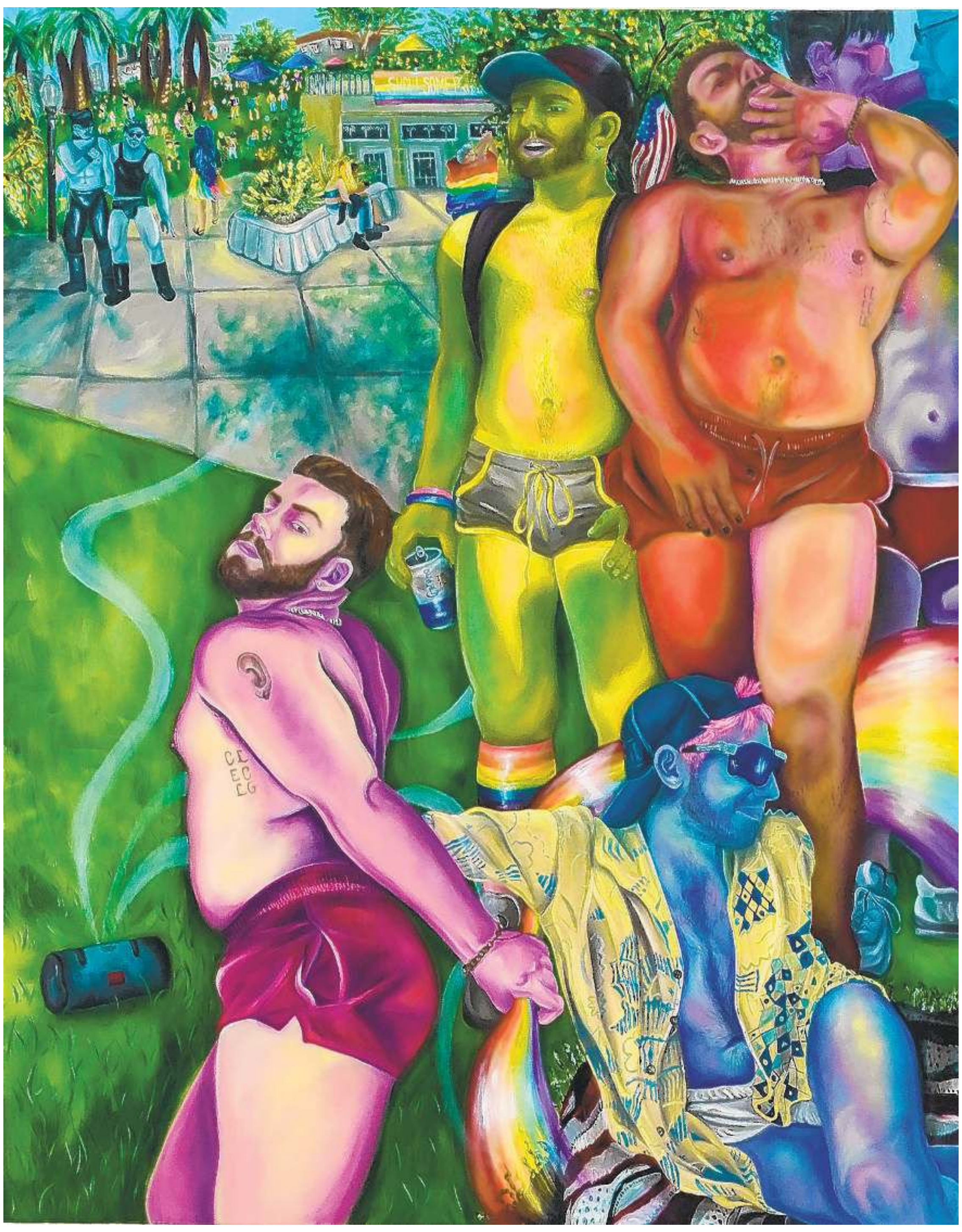
Matlin gives a longer answer when I ask her how far Hollywood has come in its treatment of deaf talent. She says between 1986's "Children of a Lesser God," her Oscar-winning film debut, and 2021's "CODA," which won the best picture Oscar and in which she starred alongside two other deaf actors, the change had been "really slow." But when she got the script for "CODA," she knew that was the tipping point. "The bottom line is that you had three authentic deaf actors carrying the film — we weren't background, we weren't, you know, little tokens," she says. "[There were] so many things that struck people that were new, but yet so familiar. ... Now they realize we exist."

AN ARTISTIC BRIDGE'S NEW BONDS

OAKLAND'S GOOD MOTHER GALLERY SETS UP IN DOWNTOWN L.A. TO CONNECT BAY AREA AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CREATIVES

BY MEKA BOYLE

LAST NOVEMBER, Oakland-based Good Mother Gallery hosted a buzzy inaugural group show in Los Angeles featuring the work of 20 artists, mostly from the Bay Area and L.A. On opening night, the space overflowed with a crowd of creatives from both regions of the state who came to see the art and stayed to talk about it. ¶ Over the last near-decade, Good Mother Gallery has helped elevate the Bay Area's emerging art scene. Now, it's set its sights on L.A. The gallery's second and larger location in Los Angeles brings its roster of Bay Area artists, including Landon Pointer and Morgan Corbitt, as well as a community-centric ethos, to a new audience. Located downtown near the 6th Street Viaduct, the gallery is on the first floor of a building where artists also reside in live-work spaces. ¶ The group show "People, Places, Things" opened at Good Mother Gallery the first weekend of January. It features figurative, landscape and still life works by five emerging L.A. and Bay Area artists that underscore the talent in the gallery's expanding community. It presents vignettes of California city life, highlighting minute details of architecture and figures sourced from the artists' day-to-day observations, communities, personal histories and identities.



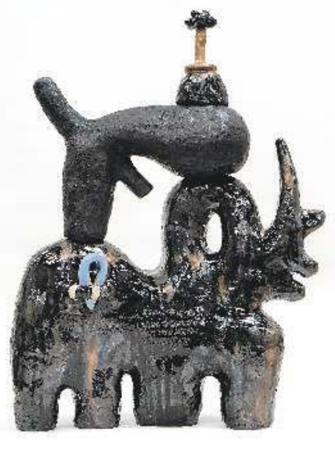
Photographs from Good Mother Gallery

BREA WEINREB'S "You Better Work, 2022," above, set at San Francisco's Dolores Park, is on view at L.A.'s Good Mother Gallery.

GOOD MOTHER GALLERY

Artist Corbitt's zoomed-in details of Bay Area building facades offer a bird's-eye view of city streets obscured by the wings of pigeons. On the gallery floor, Oakland-based Michael Diamond's life-size sculptures of birds gather in a flock; a single papier-mâché pigeon nestles in the ceiling rafters. In the vibrant painting "You Better Work, 2022," artist Brea Weinreb's friends leisurely gather, music blaring and chests bared, at San Francisco's Dolores Park — a site of queer bliss she used to frequent before moving to L.A. And one of Josh Cloud's three sculptures, "Spring Showers, 2022," crafted from ceramic, wire, flocking and cotton branches, animates the center of the gallery.

For L.A. artists, Good Mother's presence is a welcome place to show work and meet like-minded creatives in a scene where a small pool of established artists are often given outsize exposure. "Recently I've noticed more of a grassroots effort to show work in L.A.," says the Southern California-based ceramicist Cloud. "Instead of waiting around for bigger galleries to give people of color and queer people the opportunities to show work, why not do it ourselves? We're doing something together, and that feels more important."



"HONEST PRECARITY" by Josh Cloud, a SoCal-based ceramicist.

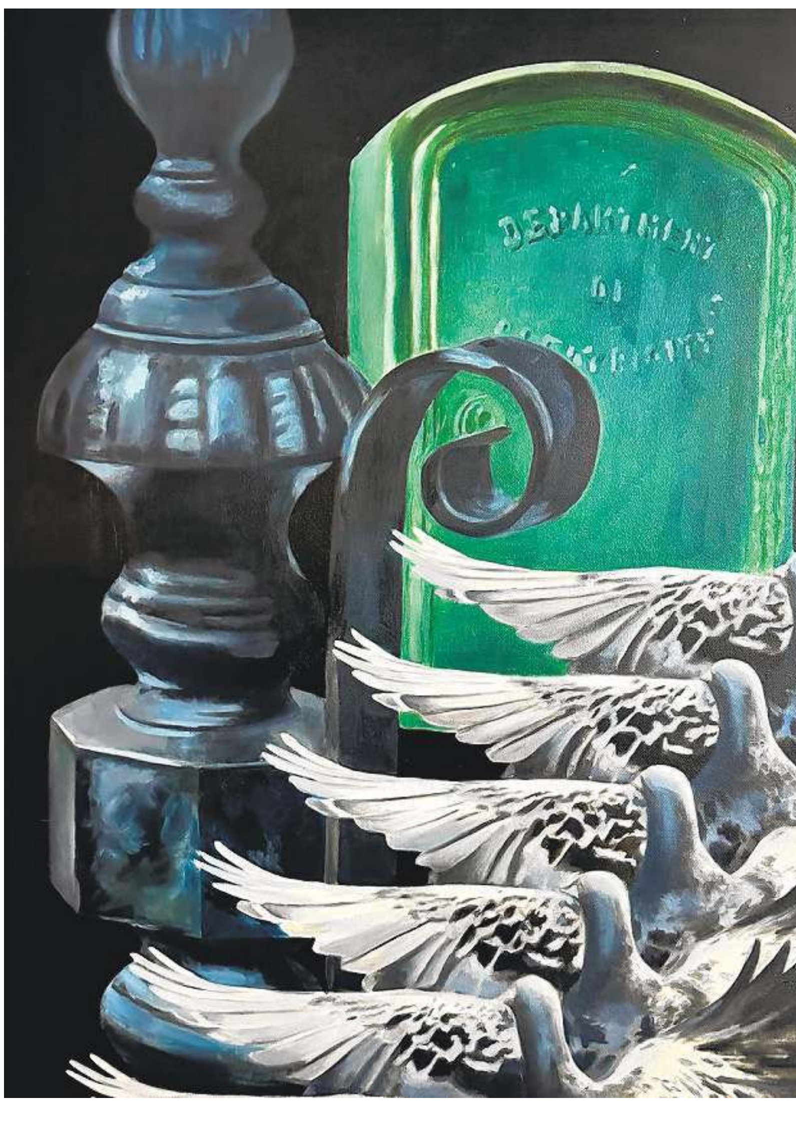
In a climate where many young artists move back and forth between the Bay and L.A. and even more fluidly exchange ideas online, the gallery's two locations intend to function as a bridge connecting artists on opposite sides of California. Good Mother hopes this cross-pollination can help promising California-based artists grow their collector base and reach a wider audience.

"It felt really hard to make money as an artist in the Bay, especially if you were young," says Weinreb, who joined Good Mother after she left the Bay and landed in L.A. last year. Soon after her move, Weinreb found a studio in a large artist compound downtown that is home to about 50 artist studios. "There was an immediate community and a ton of local galleries big and small. Everyone is really excited to connect," she says.

"The distance is helpful because I'm able to go down to L.A. to tap into the scene, make connections and see everybody, but then I can go back home to Oakland and be in my own little world in my studio," adds Pointer, who is showing for the first time in L.A. at Good Mother. The artist's trio of paintings on display at the gallery blend influences from his Oakland community with trailblazing Black pop culture icons, like Dennis Rodman. "Good Mother opened up a whole new world for me," he says.

The gallery's co-owners and directors, brothers Ian and Jared Jethmal and Vanessa Indies, list L.A.'s booming art scene as the main reason for the expansion; the Southern California metropolis has more galleries, more collectors, more opportunities to be seen — a sentiment echoed by the recent wave of New York galleries expanding to L.A. as well. The Jethmals originally opened their Oakland location in 2014, named after their mother who raised her four sons as a single parent, as a way to champion their artist friends in the Bay Area and bridge the gulf between small DIY spaces and larger galleries. The Jethmals originally co-founded the gallery with their good friend Calvin Wong, who moved on to pursue his art career as a ceramicist in 2017. Indies joined Good Mother full time last year to help open the L.A. location.

"When we started we were surrounded by a lot of new, up-and-coming artists. We all came up at the same time; there was a kind of renaissance," says Jared. "Since then, we've grown with that scene. A lot of the artists that we were showing at the very beginning have now gone on to big-time places in their careers," like painters Mario Ayala, Jeffrey Cheung and Jahlil Nzinga. Ayala, whose work was featured in Good Mother's first show in Oakland, recently had a solo show in New York at Jeffrey Deitch.



A BIRD'S-EYE view of Bay Area city streets and buildings marks Morgan Corbitt's work; above, "Department of Electricity."

The gallery hopes to follow an upward trajectory of its own without losing sight of its roots. "The original goal hasn't changed since we started, and I don't think it ever will," says Ian.

"We don't want to follow the mold of a typical blue-chip, high-end gallery. You can make the sales, do the business properly and also have fun and be creative and weird with it," adds Jared.

In recent years, artists in Good Mother's Bay Area circle such as Cannon Dill, Andrew Barnes, Guillaume Ollivier and Maggie Wang, in search of more space and opportunities, made the move to Los Angeles. Good Mother later followed.

"In the last eight years, we've built enough of a community framework for us to go down to L.A. and actually do something meaningful," says Ian, noting that they found their new location through friends who scouted the area.

The gallery is also working with Southern California curators to curate shows and events throughout 2023. Mixed-media artist Paul Flores, born and raised in L.A., is curating a large group show this summer. Good Mother is also partnering with longtime friend and director of Tlaloc Studios Ozzie Juarez, a local artist who was showcased in the gallery's inaugural L.A. exhibition, to place local, emerging artists in exhibitions at both spaces throughout the year.

In April, Good Mother will present a solo show featuring L.A. native Daniel Antelo, an artist who creates large-scale oil paintings, billboards and murals throughout the city, including his grayscale, photo-realistic mural of Kobe and Gianna Bryant in East Los Angeles. The gallery is also planning a fashion pop-up at the end of the month with Tommy Bogo, who worked on community fashion events in Oakland with Good Mother before moving to Southern California. "We're trying to tap into the scene and get our arms in as many places as we possibly can so that everyone feels included into what we can possibly do in L.A.," says Ian.

"It is all about expanding while keeping the soul of the space because that's what makes Good Mother Good Mother," says Pointer. "And that's why they have such a strong community, that's why they're so successful: At the heart of it all, they care about the people and people care about them."

CASEY DURKIN Bravo

HOUSEWIVES Lisa Rinna, left, Garcelle Beauvais, Sheree Zampino, Crystal Minkoff, Kyle Richards and Dorit Kemsley from the "Beverly Hills" edition. "Salt Lake City's" Jen Shah, below.

'Housewives' fans make waves too

THE DEDICATED CREATORS OF SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR WEB CONTENT SURROUNDING THE HIT BRAVO FRANCHISE OPEN UP ABOUT GETTING THE GOODS AND HAVING FUN

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL

FOR 48 HOURS, the "Real Housewives" fandom was buzzing. ¶ Maggie Kelley, the creator and operator of @BestOfBravo, was waking up from a nap at her home in Nashville earlier this month when she reached for her phone and took in the news through a flurry of group chat messages: soap star-turned-reality TV MVP Lisa Rinna was departing "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" after eight years. "I was like, 'Oh, my God,' and immediately I started composing a post," said Kelley, referring to her Instagram fan account, which pumps out memes and news bites to the glee of 226,000 followers. "That's just my first reaction — to get the news out there for my followers."

Bravo

Roughly 2,000 miles away, in Southern California, the proprietor of @QueensofBravo, who requested anonymity in order to continue making "Housewives" content in peace, was working their administrative job when the news hit.

"To quote Lisa Barlow [of 'The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City'], I was shaking. I was physically shaking," they said. "I couldn't even say words because I was trying to post as quickly as possible. I peaced out of my job for a solid 15 minutes — I was like, 'I'm taking my break,' and I just started posting. The news was not a surprise to me, as I had been hearing this since October from people fairly close to production. But it was shocking that it came at that point in time."

@QueensofBravo's owner knew, like anyone who counts Housewives such as Kyle Richards and Teresa Giudice as main characters in their group chat, that the following day was already slated to be a headline-maker: "The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City" cast member Jen Shah was scheduled to be sentenced for her role in a telemarketing scheme targeting senior citizens.

"We're well past 10 years of this franchise being on the air, and it's still making national headlines," Kelley said. "I muted my work call to listen to Jen Shah's sentencing, and I know I'm not the only one doing that."

"Real Housewives" isn't just a reality TV saga. The Bravo mainstay is also an addictively messy and scandal-plagued fantasy epic, one that has obsessed fans throughout its nearly 17 years on air. And as with "Star Wars," "The Lord of the Rings" or "Game of Thrones," its admirers aren't passive viewers; they've become a vital part of the "Housewives" ecosystem.

In fact, they've become main characters in their own right.

Thanks to real-life controversies — including Shah's 6 ½-year sentence and the legal proceedings involving "Beverly Hills'" Erika Girardi, a.k.a. Erika Jayne, stemming from alleged financial crimes by her estranged husband Tom Girardi — fans are no longer satisfied waiting for a new season to unfold. And a cottage industry of chatty podcasts, metacriticism and spoof accounts has sprung up to serve them: Followers can find support and updates on Instagram, TikTok, Reddit and other platforms, where a community of "Housewives" obsessives gather at handles like @BestofBravo, @QueensOfBravo, @RealMomsofBravo and @BravoandCocktails_.

From "Housewives" GIFs to Brad Goreski's meticulous and comical reenactment videos, the franchise's fandom has created an internet subgenre in its own right. And while its intensity and dedication is easy to dismiss or trivialize, its rise has reshaped how we view — and, by extension, the power of — a TV genre that's typically not taken seriously.

"It's close to its own little religion," said Kristen Warner, an associate professor in the department of journalism and creative media at the University of Alabama. "The 'Housewives' folks are committed, and very loyal, and have lots of opinions."

Vanessa Rizi and Abby Steffens, both 37, began the "Real Moms of Bravo" podcast in November 2018 as working moms trying to foster a creative outlet all their own. For the friends, who met as students at the University of Missouri, the "Real Housewives" has long been a subject that regularly sparks lively exchanges.

"At first, we were like, 'Do we do this? There's other podcasts out there,' " Rizi said. "But I talked to Abby and I was like, 'You know what, there's a million true-crime podcasts and no one's complaining about the number of true-crime podcasts. So why *not* do one with a motherhood angle?"

Rizi, who lives in Kansas City and works in account management, is a mother of two girls;

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Los Angeles Times

DANIELLE DEL VALLE Bravo

A FLEET of fan accounts and "Real Housewives" content has proliferated online during the Bravo franchise's run. Teresa Giudice and Margaret Josephs from "New Jersey," above.

Steffens, who lives in St. Louis and works in sales, is a mother of three boys. In the recap podcast, which now boasts more than 180 episodes, they often key in on topics like the relatability of "The Real Housewives of Potomac" star Candiace Dillard-Bassett's in vitro fertilization journey. And while the podcast began as their primary focus, its accompanying Instagram account provided more immediate insight into the following they were building.

"We got really competitive and into it," said Rizi of the account, which now boasts 91,000 followers. "And we just kind of threw ourselves into this world of Bravo and this bubble of meme accounts and things that I never thought I would be into. But here I am."

For some of these "Housewives" pundits, enthusiasm for the franchise (and Bravo programming more broadly) spilled into social media and other platforms as they sought to extend the escapism of something they enjoyed. The handler of @QueensofBravo, whose indoctrination into the "Housewives"-verse began with "Beverly Hills," launched their account during the pandemic; it now has nearly 140,000 followers on Twitter and 161,000 followers on Instagram — actor Sharon Stone among them.

"I didn't go all-in until the pandemic," they said. "I was still working, but working from home, so not doing the commute as much. I just had so much more free time on my hands. And like everybody else, you were just on social media and you're talking about these shows, or looking around [for information on them]. There was something that was missing and I wanted to put my voice in there as well. I don't think I always have the most popular opinion out there."

The woman who runs the Bravo and Cocktails website and social accounts, and asked to be identified only as B in order to speak candidly about the work, found the distraction a form of therapy when she launched her page in 2019.

"My mom was sick," she said. "I was a full-time working mom of two kids sitting in a hospital waiting room for hours. And I always had my Instagram and I was looking at other fan accounts. I remember calling my sister-in-law being like, 'What do you think about me starting an Instagram [fan] account?' As things got bad with my mom, it just became an outlet for me to zone out from the serious and heavy stuff that was going on. I just started making memes. I'm not a techie at all — my degrees are in psychology. I remember asking younger people like, 'Which app do you use? And how do you do it?' And so my memes were always very basic, but I thought they were funny."

MEMES ARE still a mainstay on the grid, but the focus has increasingly shifted to posts with updates about the goings-on of Housewives and other Bravo stars. Reporters at some outlets sometimes tip off the fan accounts about news that will drop to help boost clicks. In addition to monitoring and sharing news gathered by other outlets or fan pages, most accounts steadily build their own roster of insiders who disclose bits of gossip.

"Does talent contact me? Absolutely," said B of Bravo and Cocktails, who also co-hosts a podcast called "Cocktails and Gossip." "It's sort of like a broker system. Stuff comes to me and maybe I'll message somebody and say, 'Hey, listen, I got this. I don't really want to post it …' And they'll give me something so I don't. It's not necessarily what people assume, like, it's directly from a Housewife. Often, it's their agents, their PR people. I don't work in this world at all. But I have a lot of different sources."

The admin of @QueensofBravo takes this outlook: "Look at the DC or Marvel universe — people want to know everything about what's going on, what's coming up in the next year, who is joining the cast … In this 'everybody is Gossip Girl' world of social media, you're getting content that you wouldn't get in other publications. They want it now, in real time. It takes like eight months for [new seasons of] these shows to come out."

The online discourse can lead to anticipation — and also disappointment. In July, Shah pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud as part of a plea deal in her federal case, and viewers eagerly awaited the current season of "Salt Lake City," which premiered in late September, to see how it would handle the lead-up to that development. Whispers on Bravo blogs and fan pages about Kathy Hilton's alleged meltdown on a group trip to Aspen during the most recent season of "Beverly Hills" left fans disgruntled when it turned out that much of what was alleged happened off screen and addressed only in confessional interviews.

"The Bravo accounts used to mostly just be memes and pictures," said @BravoandCocktails_' B. "But some accounts started posting more tea; people like that, so other accounts felt that they needed to get into that. And I think that the more accounts there were, the bigger we got, the more the network bought into it, the more that the PR people and the ladies themselves bought into it — it's marketing. It costs nothing for Dorinda [Medley] to send me a bottle of bourbon; she knows I'm going to post it, and now my 100,000 followers are going to be like, 'Did you like it?' And if I say yes, they buy it. It's changed the landscape completely."

And the reach of these fan accounts has also made them a desirable marketing tool for Bravo itself, which provided complimentary or discounted passes to a select number of accounts.

"The Bravo fandom is unmatched in their loyalty, passion and dedication. They are a critical part of our brand DNA and we value them tremendously for their opinions," says Ellen Stone, executive vice president, Entertainment Consumer Engagement and Brand Strategy, NBCUniversal Television and Streaming. "Listening to their feedback is extremely important to us, and we love engaging with them on a personal level across various platforms each week, or in-person at events like BravoCon."

THE BIGGEST fan accounts generate enough chatter to engage "Housewives" themselves, past and present, who are prone to liking, sharing and commenting on posts — or occasionally blocking the accounts altogether. Kelley, who began her account in July 2018, took the opportunity to playfully confront Rinna last fall at BravoCon, as the polarizing, pillowy-lipped star was greeting fans at a merchandise van hawking products from Rinna's beauty line.

"She was like, 'Oh, you're one of the only ones [fan accounts] I like' " Kelley recalled. "And I go, 'Well, you blocked me. Why did you block me?' She was like, 'I didn't block you, did I?' I said, 'Yes you did. And then you *unblocked* me.' And she said, 'Oh, yeah. Well, I was blocking everybody.'"

Sometimes, the drama stoked by gossip sites and fan accounts spills back into the show, fueling cast members' on-camera arguments.

A video of a shirtless Luis "Louie" Ruelas, the beau of original cast member Teresa Giudice, was a big talking point of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" Season 12 — and eventually led to a screenshot of @Bravoand-Cocktails_, the first to leak the video, being featured in an episode. ("I got 30,000 followers overnight," B said.) The account was also later name-checked by "RHONJ" cast member Margaret Josephs during an appearance on "Watch What Happens Live."

And a screenshot of a tweet posted by @QueensofBravo featuring a grid of photos of Jayne snapping at fellow cast member Sutton Stracke with the caption, "And not once was she called a bully by anyone," was shown during the reunion for Season 11 of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills." (As pointed out in the reunion, cast member Garcelle Beauvais had engaged with it online.)

"That was fairly special," the @QueensOfBravo account holder said. "Queens of Bravo will always be part of Bravo forever — forever. People all over the world are going to be able to see — and it had my logo on there too."

But becoming one of the real pot-stirrers of the "Real Housewives" universe is demanding work, especially as the proliferation of fan accounts leads to fiercer competition. Ex-Housewives themselves have even jumped into the fray: Former cast members Tamra Judge of "Orange County" and Teddi Mellencamp of "Beverly Hills" have their own podcast devoted to breaking down the action, "Two Ts in a Pod."

On a typical day, B of Bravo and Cocktails wakes up early and spends about two hours focused on the account and preparing her posts before shifting attention to her day job. After work, she goes through the website's inbox to scan for any tips or leads. And there are spurts of attention too: After making her daughter a snack, B will squeeze in 10 minutes to focus on the account; when her daughter is at soccer practice, B watches her from the car while also monitoring for news with posting potential. The shift to working from home during the pandemic has provided more flexibility.

The popularity of these social media profiles can be lucrative, leading to subscription-based offshoots of their content or partnerships with brands.

"I started to get opportunities for ads and Amazon and things like that," said Kelley, who works in healthcare IT recruiting. "Before that, it was nothing. And I'm putting like 40 hours a week into this. And I was fine, that was never my intention whatsoever. But at the end of the day, it's extra money, why would I *not* take it?"

To understand the intensity of the "Housewives" fandom, Racquel Gates, associate professor of media and cinema studies at the CUNY College of Staten Island and an avid "Housewives" viewer, said it's important to acknowledge the franchise's roots in soap operas.

"The thing that reality television has going for it, in terms of audience engagement, is that you get to build relationships with the cast members, especially if you have cast members who've been on for 10-plus years," Gates says. "We've seen people get married, we've seen people have their kids on camera, we've seen those kids grow up. … We're invested in their lives."

It's the same link B, of Bravo and Cocktails, cited to describe the hold the franchise has on her.

"My mom and her friends would get Soap Opera Digest, and they would talk about the cast, they would call each other up and talk about what happened in whatever episode of 'Days of Our Lives,' " she says. "So for me, it was a very familiar thing. Once I was in my older teens, early 20s, when 'Housewives' came out, this was more relatable than the fantasy of soap operas and still addicting. I think people my age, we're kind of doing what our moms did with soap operas. When you work full time and you have kids and you're married, it becomes a thing where your time is limited. I just got to a point where I was basically exclusively watching Bravo."

Added Steffens: "Some people might say — and typically it's men — 'Oh, it's just some silly show about women fighting,' but it's so much more than that. If it was just that, it wouldn't have the fan base that it does."

If creating content in response to pop culture is a common feature of fandom, what's unique to the "Housewives" contingent, according to media studies scholar Warner, is that such output typically revolves around fictional characters.

"The way that we talk about these people is as if they were fictional characters," Warner said. "So when I'm watching clips out of BravoCon, and there's a fan saying, 'Here's another thing I don't like about so and so' — it's like having an argument with a character in a show that you love. It's that kind of energy that is so different and it's what Bravo has brought, and wrought, in this weird way, because we're doing this with reality television."

That blurring of the line between fiction and reality has consequences: Cast members may have signed up for the spotlight, but they aren't immune to criticism, which can often be mean-spirited. And the most powerful fan accounts can make or break a Housewife, whose run on the series depends on their ability to gin up drama without appearing to be disingenuous — and thereby alienating viewers.

"I think it's gotten to a crazy level, much like the politics in the country right now," Rinna told The Times in a 2019 interview. "I don't think it's great. I think they've lost [sight of] the fact that it's a TV show, it's fun. They've taken it very seriously. I mean, I've had death threats."

The majority of fans maintain a healthier relationship with the series, though — one Steffens compared to her husband watching "college football all day Saturday, [NFL] all day Sunday, Monday Night Football, Thursday Night Football, because it's just a break from your everyday life." As her "Real Moms of Bravo" partner Rizi put it, the franchise is "the best form of escapism."

"These women have let us into their lives, and you still feel the need to keep up whether you want to or not," she said. "As a community, we all thrive on the big moments and 'Housewives' gives us so many — either big blowout fights or funny moments. And I think we collectively like to be in on the joke. I really just enjoy petty drama sometimes when it's not my own."

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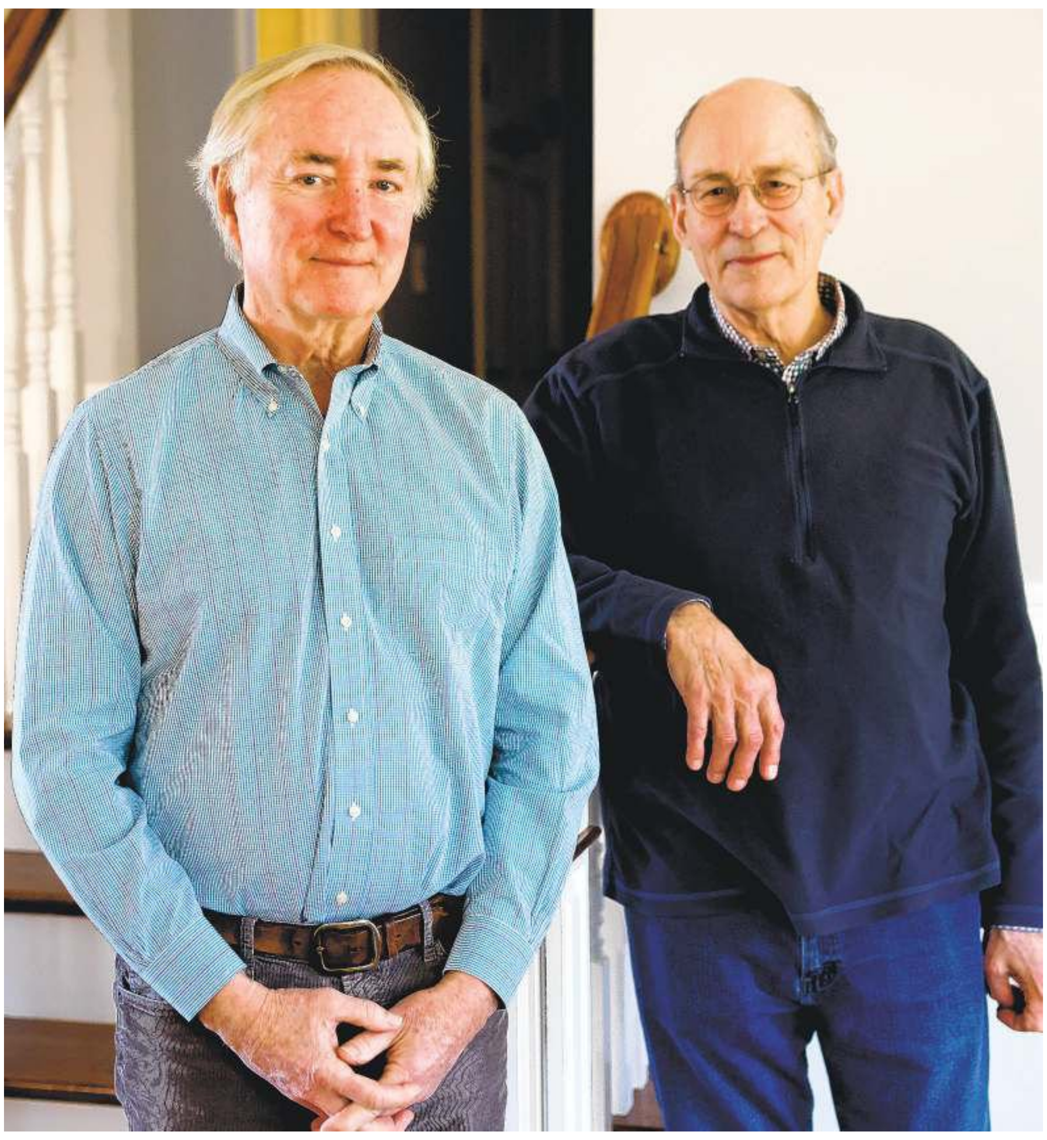
MAKING HOUSE CALLS IN THE STREETS

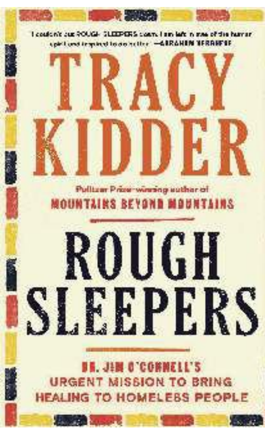
TRACY KIDDER FOLLOWS A DOCTOR CARING FOR BOSTON'S 'ROUGH SLEEPERS.'

ERIKA D. SMITH
COLUMNIST



Boston Globe via Getty Images

TRACY KIDDER, left, and Dr. Jim O'Connell, who makes his rounds caring for homeless people in Boston.


TRACY KIDDER
Pulitzer Prize-winning author of
MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS
ROUGH SLEEPERS
DR. JIM O'CONNELL'S URGENT MISSION TO BRING HEALING TO HOMELESS PEOPLE

Random House

PULITZER Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder is perhaps best known for his book "Mountains Beyond Mountains" — a globe-trotting chronicle of Dr. Paul Farmer, the renowned infectious disease specialist who spent his life on a selfless mission to bring modern medicine to the world's poorest countries.

The book helped solidify Farmer's reputation as something of a saint by the time of his death.

Kidder wasn't necessarily looking for another Ivy League-educated doctor to canonize. But one night in 2014, he climbed into a van stuffed with blankets, underwear, socks, soup and sandwiches and came face to face with Jim O'Connell, the physician who founded Boston's Health Care for the Homeless Program.

Or "Saint Jim," as he is known in the close-knit medical and philanthropic circles of Massachusetts.

For three decades, O'Connell has been making house calls to the streets, seeking out the hundreds of chronically homeless people who sleep each night huddled under tents and tarps in doorways and alleys and on stoops and park benches.

To these men and women, and the many others who live in the city's shelters, O'Connell is "Dr. Jim" — a beloved best friend, staunch ally, trusted confidant and dependable dispenser of sound medical advice. He has built one of the nation's most coordinated and comprehensive healthcare systems for unhoused people.

Kidder couldn't resist making this mild-mannered, self-effacing, ruddy-faced man the subject of his new book, "Rough Sleepers," borrowing a 19th century British term for people who live on the streets. Kidder joins the Los Angeles Times Book Club on Thursday to discuss his latest work with Times columnist Steve Lopez.

"I was just astonished at the relationships that he had with these people," Kidder told me over Zoom from his home near Northampton, Mass.

"I mean, he's not a saint. He hates being called one because he knows that he isn't," Kidder added, noting that O'Connell is uncomfortable with praise, much less beatification. "But if you deny that you're a saint, it kind of improves your qualifications, right?"

For five years, Kidder followed O'Connell with a notebook in Boston, much as he did with Farmer across Haiti, Peru, Cuba, Russia and Mexico.

The author tagged along in the van, watching as O'Connell and his team patiently and affably used the skills of social workers to persuade unhoused people to come in for medical treatment. Every night, the doctor carried a small bag containing basic first-aid gear, a stethoscope, a blood-pressure cuff, a pulse oximeter and ear thermometer.

"His patients, and prospective patients, were sleeping in doorways, arguing drunkenly with statues in parks," Kidder writes. "I had rarely spoken to such people and congratulated myself when I had. For me, the night's tour was a glimpse of a world hidden in plain sight. I was left with a memory of vivid faces and voices, and with a general impression of harsh survival, leavened by affection between a doctor and his patients."

At times, Kidder told me he felt as if he were back in Haiti with Farmer. The discarded and forgotten rough sleepers he encountered alongside O'Connell in Boston — not unlike the discarded and forgotten rough sleepers of Los Angeles — were plagued by ailments that shouldn't exist in a country with as much money and modern medicine as the United States.

O'Connell and his team regularly treated unhoused people who hadn't seen a doctor or a dentist in years. Many had scabies, untreated hernias and pneumonia, and were infested with lice. (From "Rough Sleepers," I learned that to clean a wound of maggots — another frequent condition among rough sleepers — you first stuff the wound with raw ground meat to draw them out.)

One man had a cancer that had paralyzed the left side of his face, the result of what had once been an easily treatable basal cell carcinoma. Others had been released from the hospital with blood pouring from their ears and eyes.

Often drugs and alcohol ravaged bodies and minds alike. Some unhoused people tried and frequently failed to get clean, creating a constant churn of the same patients looking to O'Connell for help curbing their withdrawal symptoms. Others, unable to get past personal trauma, never tried to get a handle on their addictions at all.

"Many of the people I met had unbelievably bad childhoods," Kidder told me. "Terrible, terrible, *terrible* abuse."

SUCH patients are a far cry from those O'Connell thought he'd be treating as a new doctor. The salutatorian of his class at the University of Notre Dame, he studied philosophy and theology at the University of Cambridge in England, spent a stint learning to listen as a bartender and at age 30, entered medical school at Harvard University.

Ultimately, he passed up a prestigious fellowship and career track at an equally prestigious hospital to build the Health Care for the Homeless Program. O'Connell, as Kidder put it, lived life backwards.

He worked long hours, riding in the van and staffing clinics. He cared for rough sleepers and watched them die, often inebriated and in the cold, but sometimes newly sober and in their own homes. In doing so, he sacrificed his personal life. He put off having a family to the point that at age 69, when many of his peers were retired with had grandchildren, O'Connell had a 3-year-old daughter and was still working.

"It seemed obvious," Kidder writes, "Jim would keep growing old with his patients for some time."

To read "Rough Sleepers" is to confront not only the consequences of homelessness, but to wrestle with knowing that, as terrible as the problem is now, it would so be much worse if not for the sacrifices of people like O'Connell.

If not for him, some 11,000 unhoused people in Boston might not get help every year. The Health Care for the Homeless Program is well-funded and has hundreds of employees, due to the brain trust that O'Connell spent decades of his life building.

SUCH selflessness is absolutely something to be admired. But in that admiration, it's easy to forget that, as a society, we're basically allowing individuals to give of themselves, letting them chip away at an impossible cause to the point of being called "saints," rather than muster the will to solve what are essentially human-made problems.

That so many men and women and, yes, children live in squalor on the streets is the result of decisions that leaders in government and in business made years ago and continue to make every single day.

In some ways, as Kidder notes, the nation's homelessness crisis goes back to the politics of the 1980s. We're talking a dysfunctional and overly punitive criminal justice system, and a failure to provide adequate services after the mass closure of psychiatric hospitals. And there are other roots, too, including the legacy of racist housing practices that have everything to do with why Black Americans are disproportionately represented among the unhoused.

There are signs of hope, though, at least in Los Angeles. Mayor Karen Bass continues to roll out her coordinated strategy to quickly and humanely get homeless people into shelters and housing. Just as important, she has pledged to expedite the construction of more affording housing for everyone, as a way to lower rental prices that have risen faster than wages in recent years mostly because of the short supply.

Ultimately, these are big problems that call for seismic shifts in society's values and political priorities. O'Connell has no time for that. He can't wait. He has rough sleepers to heal.

"There is the here and now," Kidder said, explaining the doctor's philosophy. "These are people in dire need and we need to try to provide them with what they need to survive."

That's "Saint Jim."

"He presents some of the same problems to a writer that Paul Farmer did for me, which was what my beloved editor once called 'the problem of goodness,' " Kidder told me. "How do you persuade a cynical age that people like this actually exist?"

BOOK CLUB | If You Go

What: Author Tracy Kidder joins the L.A. Times Book Club to discuss "Rough Sleepers" with Times columnist Steve Lopez.

When: Thursday at 6 p.m. Pacific

Where: Live streaming online. Sign up on Eventbrite.

Info: *latimes.com/bookclub*

NOBODY HERE IS INNOCENT

IN DE'SHAWN CHARLES WINSLOW'S PROPULSIVE SECOND NOVEL, A TRIPLE HOMICIDE UNRAVELS A GOSSIPY, OSTENSIBLY SLEEPY SEGREGATED SOUTHERN TOWN. **BY CHRIS VOGNAR**

WEST MILLS, the small, segregated North Carolina town where "Decent People" unfolds, is a hotbed of gossip and long-simmering recrimination. The residents have plenty to talk about as the novel opens: The Harmon siblings — Marian, a prosperous doctor; Marva, who works as Marian's nurse; and Lazarus, her driver — have been found murdered in their luxurious home. Nobody liked Dr. Harmon much; she was the kind of stuck-up professional who looked down her nose at everyone. But this is a little community, and murder is a big-city problem. Who would do such a thing? ¶ As it turns out, the line forms to the left in De'Shawn Charles Winslow's propulsive second novel, a murder mystery that doubles as a savvy examination of race and class. West Mills is one of those places where neighbors bite their lips in public before backbiting behind closed doors — until, that is, an unfortunate event, an unthinkable crime and a tenacious interrogator bring it all out into the open, leaving the dirty laundry fluttering in the wind.

Winslow, revisiting the fictional setting (and some of the characters) of his first novel, "In West Mills," has crafted a nonstop narrative that picks at the scabs barely concealing the wounds of American race relations.

The year is 1976, but no one here is in the mood for a bicentennial celebration. Josephine "Jo" Wright has just moved back to her hometown after several years in New York. In her late 50s, Jo is looking forward to some slow and friendly Southern living. She's ready to settle down with Lymp, a longtime acquaintance and recent romantic interest. He's a kind man and a safe bet. Then his three half-siblings are found shot to death in their own home.

Lymp, recently heard cursing the trio in public, is a suspect, though the sheriff doesn't seem too interested in solving a crime that involves only Black people. That leaves Jo to conduct her own investigation and clear her fiancé's good name — or perhaps discover his guilt.

Either way, she has no qualms about kicking the hornet's nest. West Mills is a town teeming with carefully kept secrets, most of them connected to societal neuroses. Eunice Loving, who owns the local grocery store, lives in shame of her gay adolescent son, La'Roy, and she apparently asked Dr. Harmon to help "cure" him. It didn't go well.

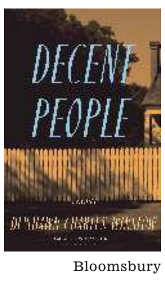
Marva's best friend, a young, widowed white woman named Savannah, is pulled into the drama through her two sons. Savannah's father, Ted, is a staunch segregationist who never forgave his daughter for marrying a Black man. The old man also owns the shopping center where Dr. Harmon ran her practice, and he has plenty of skeletons in his own closet. So does Lymp, as it turns out. Jo figures out early that she may not like everything she learns.

Almost nobody here is innocent, which is largely the point. Racism and segregation, still thriving in the '70s South, corrode everything and everybody they touch in one way or another. "Decent People" adds homophobia to the mix, which scarcely needs more toxicity.

Winslow has written not just an investigation of a crime, but also a diagnosis of a nation's ills. Jo's investigation needles nerves already worn thin — class resentments, racial distrust and transgressions swept under the rug. As Winslow writes, "Nothing stays secret for long in West Mills."

In case that sounds ponderous, it bears emphasizing that "Decent People" also provides a great deal of pleasure. Gossip usually does, after all. "You think you on *McMillan & Wife* or something?" Lymp asks his inquisitive fiancée, tossing out a choice pop culture period detail. "These lawmen 'round here ain't gon' play with you." Eunice, who sings in the choir, gives the reader her sensory experience of the church: "The scents of at least twenty different perfumes and colognes mixed with the odor from the cigars three of the deacons had puffed on before entering the church." Winslow plays with narrative voice, alternating between different points of view, simulating the process by which information and disinformation are disseminated.

"Decent People" practically turns its own pages, creating in the reader an insatiable curiosity that matches Jo's own. Winslow proves able to simultaneously drill down and step back, letting the details add up and weaving the grievances of one character into the next until you don't know whom to trust. They're all caught in the same web, and try as they might, they can't talk their way out of it. But it sure is fun to watch them try.



Bloomsbury

JULIE R. KERESZTES

THE NEW murder mystery by De'Shawn Charles Winslow doubles as a smart study of race and class.

Vognar is a freelance writer based in Houston.

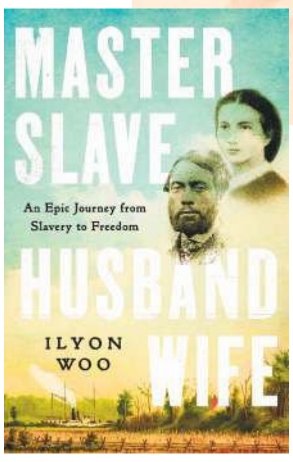
BLACK HEROES' DARING ESCAPE TALE TAKES FLIGHT

ILYON WOO'S PATHBREAKING BOOK SHEDS LIGHT ON THE SAGA OF ABOLITIONISTS ELLEN AND WILLIAM CRAFT AND THEIR EPIC, INGENIOUS JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

BY STUART MILLER

FREDERICK DOUGLASS has been a household name for more than 170 years. Harriet Tubman's relentless bravery has her headed for enshrinement on the $20 bill. Sojourner Truth is an icon for her work as both an abolitionist and a feminist. ¶ But beyond that trio of revered figures, the list of formerly enslaved Black people whose stories are remembered today is vanishingly small. Hollywood rescued Solomon Northup ("12 Years a Slave") and Joseph Cinqué ("Amistad") from relative oblivion. And now Ilyon Woo shines the spotlight on the saga of Ellen and William Craft in her riveting book "Master Slave Husband Wife." ¶ Ellen, whose father was a slaver, was white enough to pass, but as a woman she could not easily travel unaccompanied in 1848. So this skilled seamstress created an outfit that enabled her to pose as a wealthy but ailing young man who needed constant tending to by his slave — William. After they slipped away from their plantations, this fiction enabled the Crafts to travel more than 1,000 miles over land and water from Georgia to the North. But instead of settling into the tranquility of freedom, they became nationally famous abolitionists, even as the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 put a target on their backs. ¶ Imani Perry, a Princeton University professor and author of the personal history "South to America," says it's important that Americans learn to think beyond Douglass, Tubman and Truth. "The more stories we have of successful emancipation, the more complex our picture is of American history," she says.

From Carol Spinanger Ivins



Simon & Schuster

Michael Wilson

A DESIRE to learn more on Ellen, top, circa 1870, and William Craft fueled Ilyon Woo.

"The Crafts' story shows the ingenuity and intellectual sophistication required to escape the clutches of slavery. And the idea that they became abolitionists at great risk is hugely important, showing the idea of linked fate."

This dramatic episode has not been completely lost; the Crafts told much of it themselves in a memoir, "Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom," and there have been academic works and even a children's book. But Woo's version, while rigorously researched, aims to make their journey accessible for a wider audience.

"Their story has long been cherished and studied in academia," says Woo, who first read their book in graduate school at Columbia University. "But I felt there was a lot more there either that they couldn't say or wouldn't say and that I wanted to know."

In a video interview from her home in Cambridge, Mass., Woo, who calls herself "a recovering academic," said she consciously took a broader approach. "I wanted to write a book my parents could read and get something out of it."

Woo initially struggled to find the balance between thoroughness and accessibility. "I'm normally hard on myself, but I felt pretty good about what I'd written and sent this chunk to my editor," she recalls. "Time passes and I start worrying. Then she sends me a six-page document that begins with something like, 'Clearly you've done a staggering amount of research.' "

The verdict was that the research was weighing down the narrative. "I had to start from scratch and let the story lead," she says. "I read a lot of novels to see how they tell the story. It's not like you read Colson Whitehead's 'Underground Railroad' and he's starting off with a description of how the railroad works. You're following the characters and then learning about their world through osmosis, and that's what I wanted."

Perry considers the effort a success: "She's an extraordinarily diligent researcher, who finds all kinds of material, but she also weaves a really engaging yarn."

That distinction resonates with Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely, a writer and activist who was jailed for registering Black voters before becoming a Freedom Rider and joining the March on Washington. Preacely attributes some of her passion for the cause to the Crafts, who were her great-great-grandparents.

"My mother taught my brother and me about them," she says, adding that so much of Black history was only passed down orally because literacy was illegal for slaves. "What's so wonderful about what Ilyon has done is that she has created a visceral experience. It's not a dry [academic] book. It's not a novel, but it reads like one."

(Preacely has also been consulting on a feature film about the Crafts that isn't connected to the book; Woo says there may be a second Craft project in development.)

The author has a theory about why this particular story has been mostly overlooked; it "resists closure and an easy ending," Woo says, and it "implicates the entire nation." While the Crafts had allies in Philadelphia and Boston who were willing to risk everything for them, there were plenty of Northerners "invested in this criminal system who are committed to bringing the Crafts back to slavery."

This includes legendary statesmen like Daniel Webster, whose desire to preserve the Union at all costs led him to promote the Fugitive Slave Act as part of the Compromise of 1850 and essentially argue, Woo notes, that there are very fine people on both sides.

Woo also zooms out to give us a sense of America in that era, starting with 1848, a year in which democratic revolutions erupted abroad while a slave owner occupied the White House (James Polk). She strives not to judge anyone, whether it's Webster or Robert Collins, the husband of Ellen's owner (and half-sister). But her fullest portraits of supporting players are reserved for members of the various factions of the abolitionist movement, both Black and white — including William Still, William Wells Brown and Robert Purvis.

"It's tempting to focus on individual heroes, but they exist in a community and that's what I wanted to evoke," Woo says, holding up the book to show that it opens with photos of "this multiracial army of people fighting alongside the Crafts."

It's that broader context, says Perry, that makes Woo's contribution as crucial as the Crafts' original memoir, providing "a more vivid and complex portrait ... that gives us a greater grace with our own political moment."

In its scope, "Master Slave Husband Wife" offers a sense that there are far more stories left untold than those we have been taught in school. "For every Douglass, Tubman and Craft," says Woo, "there are people we don't know who succeeded or tragedies about people whose escape failed."

Yet the story of the Crafts — not just their initial escape but their activism and its consequences — is particularly compelling as a lesson for a nation still struggling to come to terms with the implications of its horrific past. "The Crafts' story makes America look both great and terrible," Woo says. "It shows us what can go horribly wrong but also what can happen when we do come together."

Deconstructing Reconstruction's myth of progress

A HISTORIAN DETAILS THE HORRORS NEWLY FREED BLACK PEOPLE FACED FROM ONGOING RACIST RESISTANCE

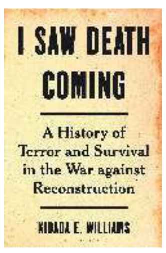
BY MARC WEINGARTEN

WHEN ROBERT E. LEE surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant after the Battle of Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, the South's defeat in the Civil War had been all but assured. But as author Kidada E. Williams reminds us in her shattering new book, "I Saw Death Coming," another insidious shadow war was just beginning. For Black people in the South, the war's end was merely a false dawn, with more horrors awaiting them. ¶ In her powerful and deeply moving history of the Reconstruction era, Williams, an associate professor of history at Wayne State University, upends the narrative of the post-Civil War era as a redressing of past wrongs, with pockets of white resistance impeding new protections as enumerated in three newly drafted constitutional amendments. Instead, a kind of crypto-Confederacy emerged from the collective rage of a fallen white South that refused to cede an inch to those they had subjugated. Despite the 13th Amendment's abolition of slavery, the liberation struggle remained a Sisyphean task, as many of the newly freed found no emancipation at all. ¶ "To African Americans, freedom at the end of the Civil War wasn't simply about being released from bondage," Williams writes. "It also involved legal certification of Black People's entitlement to access all the privileges of American freedom." According to Williams, African Americans' newly granted legal rights and protections only inflamed a rearguard of militant farmers who had other ideas — and were willing to expropriate by force all that had been legally granted to their former slaves.

As Williams tells it, Reconstruction has become a national myth; the new frontier the federal government had ostensibly granted freed people in the immediate postwar era remained well out of sight.

The members of this racist planter class would become marauding obstructionists, using fear and intimidation to roll back postbellum gains, scorching the earth now being carefully tended to by their former slaves. This irruption of violence dovetailed with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, which began as a social club in Tennessee and then quickly metastasized into a band of white supremacist terrorists.

The new book's power derives from its eye-level approach, as Williams homes in on several newly freed Black families while they struggle in the months after the war to establish footing on hostile ground, only to find every incremental gain met with violence, every small victory a prelude to further struggle. These freed people, Williams points out, were not just trying to earn a living. New communities had to be raised up from nothing, families made whole again. A new culture, in short, had to take root.


I SAW DEATH COMING
A History of Terror and Survival in the War against Reconstruction
KIDADA E. WILLIAMS

Bloomsbury

Navy B. Rae

KIDADA E. WILLIAMS, a historian, studied census, Freedmen's Bureau, Klan trial and Congress records.

Williams tells the story of former slaves Abe and Eliza Lyons, who scraped to start anew until they found some measure of stability. Abe became a blacksmith; Eliza took in odd jobs. The couple moved into their first house. Then the "night riders" came. They waited until darkness gave them cover, then charged the Lyons' home with lit torches held aloft. Eliza watched in horror as the men beat and murdered Abe; then she just ran. Williams writes that Eliza "spent the night in the woods, in her bedclothes, hiding with her girls by her side, wondering what had happened to her son," who had disappeared during the attack.

"Lying out" in the woods became a common survival tactic. Freed people were left with no sanctuary, not even the dwellings guaranteed them under the Constitution.

Night riding raids became the cudgel by which the Klan and its co-conspirators terrorized former slaves, strip-mining their possessions, dignity and sense of place. Williams writes of an "existential crisis" among those who survived these attacks, trapped in an endless cycle of reprisals. For freed Black people, the ultimatum was stark: leave or die.

So where was the federal government?

Williams cites the Freedmen's Bureau, which Washington established in former Confederate states to provide legal protection and economic assistance. But its branches were located in cities, not the rural outposts where so many strikes took place. Without the eyes of the bureau on them, the night riders attacked with impunity. In the rural South it was every Black man, woman and child for themselves.

It was as if freed people were trapped in a labyrinth with the Minotaur awaiting them at every turn. Legal recourse was elusive. Murderers skipped trial without penalty or colluded with judges who were "vigilante sympathizers, if not perpetrators or abettors themselves." African American voters were cowed into disenfranchisement; newly elected Black lawmakers were driven from office. Most crucially for Williams, freed people's basic dignity had been strip-mined, their fragile psyches fractured. Not only were their lives at risk — the soul of an entire race was being dissolved.

With scant documentation available from survivors, Williams has carefully sifted through census records and affidavits given to the Freedmen's Bureau, which led her to testimonials from local Klan trials in the Southern states as well as more extensive 1872 congressional hearings in Washington. From these shards of evidence, Williams has given us an ugly widescreen view of the reign of terror that wracked the South — not during slavery or Jim Crow, but in the very thick of Reconstruction.

"I Saw Death Coming" bears witness to a dark malignancy in American history, one we have never fully excised.

Weingarten writes about books for the Wall Street Journal, the Globe and Mail and other publications.

BESTSELLERS

Fiction

	weeks on list
1. **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin (Knopf: $28) Lifelong BFFs collaborate on a wildly successful video game.	28
2. **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: $29) In the 1960s, a female chemist goes on to be a single parent, then a celebrity chef.	38
3. **Horse** by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: $28) Before the Civil War, an enslaved young man, a racehorse and an artist launch a complex story that spans generations.	31
4. **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $33) The story of a boy born into poverty to a teenage single mother in Appalachia.	13
5. **Trust** by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead: $28) The story of a Wall Street tycoon and his aristocratic wife turns out to have hidden layers.	16
6. **Hell Bent** by Leigh Bardugo (Flatiron: $30) A supernatural sequel to "Ninth House."	1
7. **Small Things Like These** by Claire Keegan (Grove: $20) During the 1985 Christmas season, a coal merchant in an Irish village makes a troubling discovery.	1
8. **The House in the Pines** by Ana Reyes (Dutton: $27) After recovering from the trauma of her best friend suddenly dying, a woman learns of an eerily similar incident.	2
9. **Babel** by R.F. Kuang (Harper Voyager: $28) A young Chinese orphan is brought to London in an alternate-history fantasy that casts language as the key to the British Empire.	9
10. **Stella Maris** by Cormac McCarthy (Knopf: $26) A coda of sorts to "The Passenger."	6

Nonfiction

	weeks on list
1. **Spare** by Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex (Random House: $36) A groundbreaking and controversial memoir from the British royal.	1
2. **The Light We Carry** by Michelle Obama (Crown: $33) The former first lady follows up her memoir "Becoming" with a practical self-help book.	9
3. **I'm Glad My Mom Died** by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster: $28) A memoir from the TV star.	22
4. **A Book of Days** by Patti Smith (Random House: $29) A photo essay from the Rock & Roll Hall of Famer.	9
5. **Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: $27) The self-help expert's guide to building good habits and breaking bad ones.	43
6. **Stay True** by Hua Hsu (Doubleday: $26) A personal memoir from the journalist focusing on the loss of a close friend.	5
7. **The Song of the Cell** by Siddhartha Mukherjee (Scribner: $33) The medical researcher explores the science of cells, from their discovery to what we know now.	10
8. **Cinema Speculation** by Quentin Tarantino (Harper: $35) The moviemaker discusses influential films and filmmakers.	11
9. **Crying in H Mart** by Michelle Zauner (Knopf: $27) A memoir from the Korean-born singer-songwriter.	87
10. **The Half Known Life** by Pico Iyer (Riverhead: $26) The author's global quest for heaven on Earth.	1

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JERRELLE WILSON

CRANE explores "what it means to be free" in dystopian tale.

Past sins cast long shadows in a debut novel

MARISA CRANE ON CREATING A WORLD WITH NO PRISONS THAT'S EVEN CRUELER THAN OURS

BY LORRAINE BERRY

MARISA CRANE was an athlete virtually from birth, picking up basketball as a toddler and going on to play Division I ball at Drexel University before three ACL tears ended dreams of joining the WNBA. Raised in Philadelphia, Crane now lives in San Diego with a wife and toddler son and is the author of stories, essays, poetry and a debut speculative novel, which came out last week: "I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself."

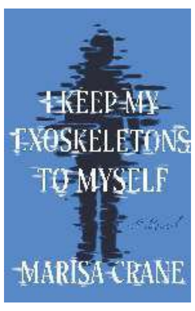
The novel is set in a society in which prisons have been abolished, but those judged to have committed crimes — or violations of the moral order — are assigned a permanent shadow. The "Shadesters" work as warnings to others, marking those they follow as second-class citizens. Crane's focus is on Kris and her daughter, referred to as "The Kid," whose mother — Kris' wife — died while giving birth to her. The Kid leaves the delivery room with the same double shadow borne by her mother.

Crane, who uses they/them pronouns, spoke to The Times in late December about the origins of the book. A proponent of prison abolition, the author couldn't help diving into its potential aftermath under a system that might never shake the impulse to punish and banish. "I wanted to see how our oppressive government can find a way to screw up everything, even something good," Crane said. Equally central to the novel is an exploration of how grief changes people — the way it can become a personal apocalypse, irrevocably separating "before and after."

Our conversation has been edited and condensed.

Your book takes place in a dystopic future in which a young woman is grieving the loss of her wife. Is there a connection between dystopia and grief?

I'm interested in grief, and I just hate the "five stages of grief" and all those sort of things [that] shame people if they don't feel like they're moving through these stages. Which is why fragmenting my novel was really a helpful way to bring out grief. Because for me, grief feels really fragmented. The memories come back in these short, weird snippets, you know? Your life is happening in the present tense, but then you have this quick reminder of this person. Over the years, those memories fade, and that's another form of grief for me. Grieving the loss of the memories of these people.



Catapult

It sounds like grief is something you're intimately familiar with.

A close friend from college died suddenly in 2014, and it was very traumatic. He was one of my people. Just this special type of connection that transcends labels like friendship and romance. His loss doesn't get any easier over time — if anything, my grief deepens and complicates. The forgetting, it really gets to me. It makes me cling and cling to what I do remember, to the person I loved, whose presence I can still feel everywhere.

This is one of the few books I've seen in which a character brings a child into a dystopia. Was there something specific you wanted to say about being a child coming up in such a world?

A lot of it came from my own fears and anxiety. We had just started talking about family planning when I started drafting this book. My wife had wanted kids forever, and she is seven years older than me. I was all on board, but I was so terrified of all of these unknown things. I had all these questions that were haunting me. I selfishly started writing into this idea, as a worst-case scenario, because I didn't want to raise a kid alone.

Why did you feel that this future world was the best setting for what is ultimately a personal story?

I think making it a different world creates enough distance for the reader to be able to see that comparison to our world without shoving it down their throat. It ended up becoming this dystopian book because I had the shadow idea baking for a really long time, before I had the plot of Kris and the Kid.

I wrote this weird little poem around 2013. It was meant to shame myself. I had a lot of shame about ways I behaved and people I'd hurt. And the poem asked, "If all the shadows of everyone you've ever hurt followed you around all day every day, would you still be so reckless with people's hearts?"

These shadows remind me of Hawthorne's "The Minister's Black Veil" or "The Scarlet Letter."

I did have "The Scarlet Letter" in mind. I haven't read it since I was a kid, but I've always been fascinated by these physical markers that were meant to disenfranchise [Hester] and keep her isolated. So I had this in mind when thinking about the function of the shadows.

How did you come to imagine a society that manages to abolish prisons only to torment the "guilty" with shadows?

I didn't originally envision the shadow premise as an alternative to incarceration. Mostly because the idea was very self-directed at first. I thought if I could imagine all these hurt people following me around, then I would 1) have to face myself and the pain I'd caused and 2) change for the better.

Then, years later, when I made the connection between the first line and this premise, I did quickly replace prisons with the shadow idea simply in order for the story to work and for the stakes to make sense. As the story developed and I went through revisions, I started thinking about [the novel's President] as almost weaponizing abolition. He planted the seed of resentment toward incarcerated people getting "luxuries," but in the same breath, he could also claim that he set everyone "free." The book, in part, became an exploration of what it means to be free — and to whom these freedoms apply.

In "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge asks the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come if these things might come to pass. Did you feel you were writing into a possible future?

[Laughs.] There's no prisons in my book, and that's something I want to see in real life. Here's prison abolition but in the worst way possible. But these changes are happening. Abolitionist organizers are doing so many incredible things. They're getting prisons closed, they're getting innocent people released. All these things that are small steps towards ultimate abolition. They are coming up with all these cool creative solutions and small ways to get there. I really do have hope for the future.

Berry writes for a number of publications and tweets @BerryFLW.

FEEDBACK

Arts and sciences

I enjoyed reading Mark Swed's column on Michael Tilson Thomas ["I Intend to Make the Most of it," Jan. 13]. I had the pleasure of being in grades 7 through 12 with MTT (at the time known as Michael).

We were attending Walter Reed Junior High School and there was a year of obligatory science in seventh grade and an elective science course in eighth grade, which we both took. Some people may not know that MTT excelled in the sciences.

We each did a project for that class. It should be no surprise that MTT's project was very artistic.

On a day, perhaps in October 1957, MTT was talking with several of us a few minutes before science class and said, "I am nearing a decision in my life. I am deciding whether I will go into science or music."

MTT would have also excelled had he chosen science.

John Hoehn
Long Beach

Jeff Beck's greatness

Kudos to Stephen Thomas Erlewine for his spot-on appreciation of Jeff Beck's unique and immense talent ["Jeff Beck's Playing Could Still Surprise Us," Jan. 13].

I had the pleasure of working with Jeff for many years when I was a director of marketing for Fender.

I recall one time when I presented him with a model.

I waited about two weeks for him to give it a thorough "road test" and got a call from his guitar tech who told me Jeff "loved it" and was now using it every night on tour.

I asked for a quotation we could use for marketing and he replied, "No offense to Fender, as you make great guitars, but he could pick the cheapest guitar off the rack at a pawn shop and he would make it sound like Jeff Beck."

Del Breckenfeld
Desert Hot Springs

Poor little rich prince

Regarding " 'Spare' Beats the Press at its Own Game" [Jan. 11]: Mary McNamara has a far more sanguine impression of the "long suffering" Prince Harry than this reader has.

From what I have gleaned from snippets of the book as reported plus interviews — perhaps not only were his nether regions affected by frostbite on his North Pole expedition but possibly his brain as well?

Conjecture on my part, but how else can one explain this truly bizarre and vicious tome. He has expressed that he hopes sharing his truths might lead to rapprochement with his family as I understand it. If I were he, I wouldn't be holding my breath.

Disclaimer: I've not read the book, choosing not to contribute to the rich getting richer, plus I've heard quite enough.

Jan Judah
Torrance

::

You do have to wonder about his/their motives. Unless it involves a need for money, or a desire to stick it to other members of the royal family, my feeling is they could have moved into Montecito, had their 2.3 children, gone to the beach regularly and sailed their boat out of Santa Barbara Harbor (my own personal dream). Within a few months they would have been relegated to the paragraph in the obituary listing surviving relatives of the deceased.

John Snyder
Newbury Park

TV THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

"Accused" (Fox, 9 p.m.; also Tue.): "The Shield's" Michael Chiklis stars in the debut installment of this crime anthology that will feature new cases and characters each episode.

"The Plot to Kill My Mother" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): A young woman in witness protection searches for her mother's killer in this TV movie.

MONDAY

"The Omega Man" (TCM, 5 p.m.): A mini-marathon of post-apocalyptic tales kicks off with this 1971 thriller starring Charlton Heston.

"The Bachelor" (ABC, 8 p.m.): "The Bachelorette's" Zach Shallcross will be handing out the roses this season.

"Independent Lens" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): The 2021 doc "No Straight Lines" profiles five queer comic book artists.

TUESDAY

"9-1-1: Lone Star" (Fox, 9 p.m.): The action drama is back. With Rob Lowe.

"Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates, Jr." (KOCE, 8 p.m.): Cyndi Lauper, Danny Trejo and Jamie Chung explore their family histories in this new episode.

"American Auto" (NBC, 8:30 p.m.): This workplace comedy clocks in for a second season.

"American Masters" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): A new episode celebrates R&B singer Roberta Flack.

PBS

CYNDI LAUPER is featured on "Finding Your Roots" on KOCE.

WEDNESDAY

"Nature" (KOCE, 8 p.m.): Sea creatures compete and/or cooperate in underwater ecosystems around the globe in "Soul of the Ocean."

THURSDAY

"Poker Face" (Peacock): "Russian Doll's" Natasha Lyonne drives around solving mysteries in this star-studded comedy from "Knives Out" writer-director Rian Johnson.

"The 1619 Project" (Hulu): This new six-part series expands on the New York Times' exhaustive 2019 exploration of the legacy of slavery.

FRIDAY

"Shotgun Wedding" (Prime Video): Jennifer Lopez and Josh Duhamel's nuptials get crashed by modern-day pirates in this over-the-top 2022 action comedy. With Jennifer Coolidge.

"Shrinking" (Apple TV+): A therapist (Jason Segel) grieving the loss of his wife goes rogue in this new comedy. Harrison Ford co-stars.

"You People" (Netflix): Jonah Hill, Lauren London, Eddie Murphy, Nia Long, David Duchovny and Julia Louis-Dreyfus star in this satirical 2023 rom-com from "black-ish" creator Kenya Barris.

"Next at the Kennedy Center" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): The Roots rule the roost in a new episode of the performing-arts series.

SATURDAY

"Frozen Planet II" (BBC America, 8 p.m.): Chill out with David Attenborough's new follow-up to his 2011 nature series.

"Love in Glacier National: A National Park Romance" (Hallmark, 8 p.m.): An avalanche forecaster hooks up with a hunky park ranger in this new TV movie.

"Hoax: The Kidnapping of Sherri Papini" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): Jaime King portrays the Redding woman who faked her own abduction in 2016 in this fact-based TV movie.

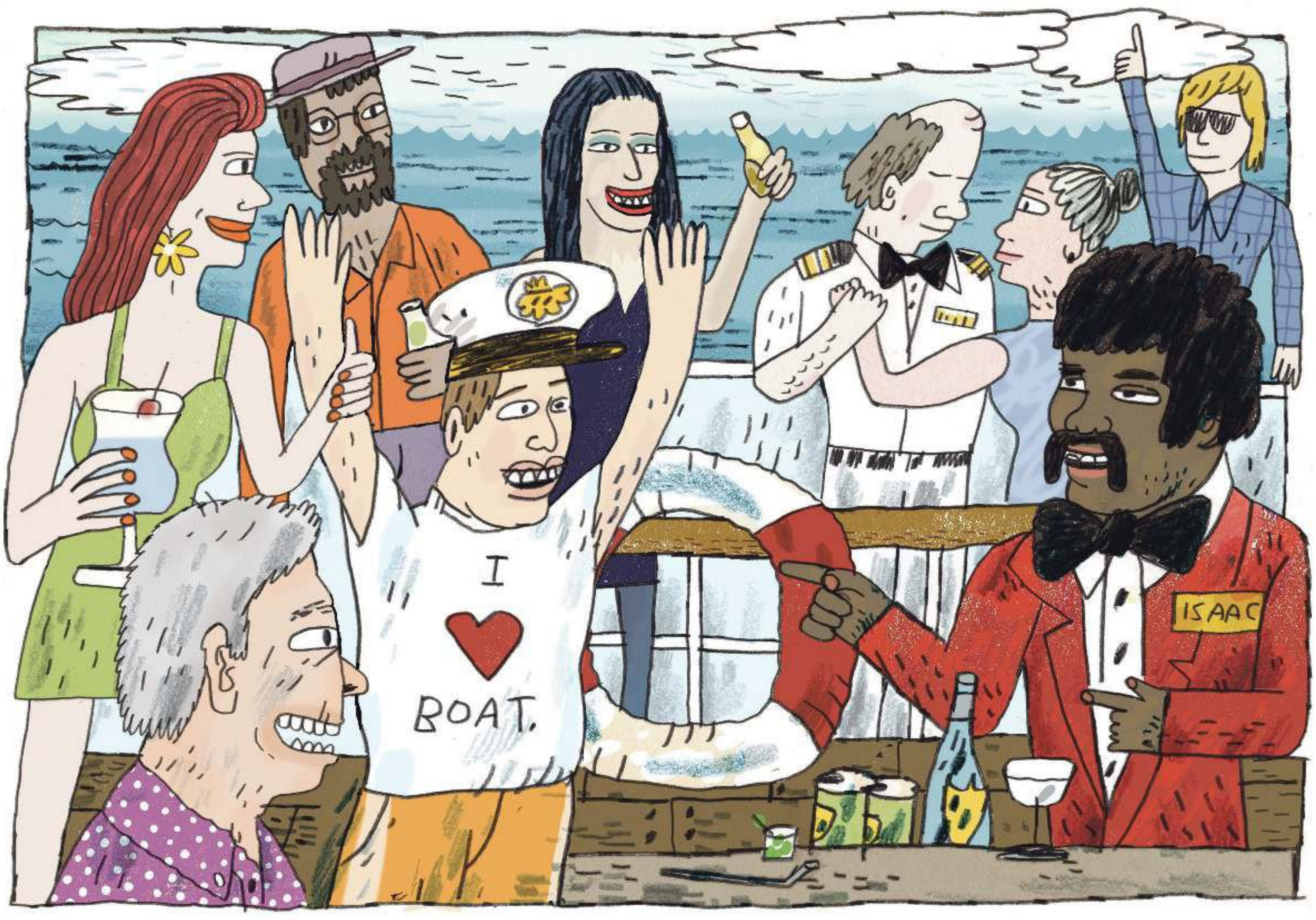
"Saturday Night Live" (NBC, 8:29 and 11:29 p.m.): Michael B. Jordan hosts and rapper Lil Baby performs.

WSCE

Los Angeles Times
WEEKEND
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

RING IN
THE
NEW
YEAR

ZIPENG ZHU For The Times



Mark Todd For The Times

A cruise for whatever floats your boat

FOR MOST ANY PASSION, THERE'S A THEMED VOYAGE WITH CAMARADERIE BUILT IN

BY ALEX PULASKI

THE CROWD SURROUNDING the Discovery Princes' main pool let the disco rhythm transport them to another place and time — high school gyms circa 1977, when the Bee Gees, platform shoes and leisure suits reigned. ¶ "That period in my life was the best," recounted Rich Plummer, 56, of Las Vegas. He remembers spending virtually every Saturday night in the clutches of two escapist television shows: "Fantasy Island" and "The Love Boat." ¶ The latter, through a blend of romance, campy humor and exotic locales, engineered a nine-year run through the 1970s and '80s, single-handedly popularizing the modern cruise industry. Hoping to stir old memories and create new ones, Plummer was among some 3,600 travelers last October aboard a seven-day "Love Boat"-themed cruise from the Port of Los Angeles to Mexico.

My wife, Mica, and I joined them, attracted by the heady cocktail of romance (including a mass vow renewal) and sunny Mexican ports. We also wanted to experience our first themed cruise.

Themed sailings began about two decades ago, and have quickly regained traction as the industry navigates a comeback from two disastrous pandemic years. Although cruise ship bookings are rising, COVID remains a risk, even more so as cruise lines drop restrictions like vaccine requirements.

A 1980s "Love Boat" mass-wedding episode may have inspired the themed-cruise phenomenon, but by now the options run well beyond the basic draw of romance at sea. Formula One racing cars. Tracing ancestors. The 1980s. Comedy. Broadway. Jazz. Outlaw country. Food. Wine. Fashion. Name a passion that keeps you anchored, and chances are a cruise line has crafted a themed voyage around it.

Through the magnetism of shared experience and often nostalgia, cruise lines have identified a fiercely loyal legion of new fans. No sooner had Discovery Princess escaped the port's container stacks and headed south than I met the first of many passengers who, like Plummer, were giddy at the prospect of sailing with five principal cast members from "The Love Boat."

Having packed their passions, they boarded this brand-new vessel for a voyage straight into the past.

'THEY COME BACK FOR EACH OTHER'

Although cruise passenger numbers have steadily climbed over the past three decades (apart from the pandemic), lines constantly seek new customers. Themed cruises provide such an opportunity, says Chris Gray Faust, executive editor of Cruise Critic, a cruise review website.

"What draws people to themed cruises is that everybody on the ship is into the same stuff you're into," she said. "They know all the words to the same songs you love. So every person is a potential friend."

Those newfound friends, she and others said, are likely to return on future cruises.

"They come the first time for the artist, but they come back for each other," said Anthony Diaz, CEO of Sixthman, a subsidiary of Norwegian Cruise Line. "When people share a passion and come together on vacation, it makes for a magical experience."

Over the past two decades, Sixthman has emerged as a leading producer of music festivals at sea across a variety of genres, from classic rock (Kiss, Heart) to country (Zac Brown Band, Lucinda Williams) to the blues (Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Joe Bonamassa).

Although the pandemic brought Sixthman's sailings to a halt in 2020, the company rebounded with 11 themed cruises in the winter of 2021-22. This year, Diaz said, the company will see 18 themed sailings aboard Norwegian vessels, eclipsing the previous record of 16 in 2019.

Apart from the pandemic, Diaz says demand for unique shipboard experiences has accelerated in recent years. Others in the industry concur.

Andrea Lenihan, a Cunard senior brand manager, said the line's entry to themed cruising in 2016 — Transatlantic Fashion Week — expanded to eight separate offerings by 2019. Cunard plans seven themed cruises in 2023, from literature to gardening to dance.

Often third parties book themed cruises for a particular ship, which can make web searches difficult. For example, cat lovers will struggle to find their obsession on Carnival Cruise Line's website, but a Google search for "cat cruises" will unearth April's "Meow Meow Cruise" aboard Carnival Horizon.

Some other themed voyages aboard major cruise lines:

Celebrity Cruises: culinary, disco, flower power, rock and romance, jazz and Pride Party at Sea

Princess Cruises: the 1980s, comedy and culinary stars

Windstar Cruises: James Beard Foundation culinary cruises and Grand Prix of Monaco

Holland America Line: culinary, wine, Sea of Cortez (Steinbeck) and solar eclipse (2024)

AmaWaterways: wine, ancestry and classical music

Royal Caribbean International: Latin dance, "Star Trek" and the 1980s

Chris Ison Cunard

CUNARD joined the themed-cruise movement with Transatlantic Fashion Week.

"The general sentiment is that people are desperate to come back to cruising," said Lenihan of Cunard. "The themed events are just another avenue to reach new people, and talk about new stories."

It required old stories, however, to lure MaryBeth Kardos of Seattle aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2 for a 2017 transatlantic crossing. The theme was "The Greatest Generation," featuring firsthand accounts from World War II veterans.

"My dad was in World War II," Kardos said. "I would hear the stories but he wouldn't go into detail. So when I heard that these (veterans) were going to share their accounts of the war, I thought, 'I have to hear this. I have to commemorate the lives that they've lived.' "

Kardos also loves the timeless elegance of the Cunard ships, as evidenced by her seven transatlantic crossings with the line. But for some who choose the themed cruise experience, the ship consists of little more than a floating arena.

Last October, Laura and David Swenzinski of Marion, Iowa, were among the throng of black-clad fans at the Port of Los Angeles' World Cruise Center Berth 93. They had just disembarked Norwegian Jewel, home to back-to-back cruises featuring the 1970s (and still going strong) rock band Kiss.

The ship stopped in Cabo San Lucas and Ensenada, Mexico, but Laura Swenzinski said she had reached her destination by day one.

"People would ask me beforehand, 'Where are you sailing? What ship are you on?'" she said. "Doesn't matter to me, as long as Kiss is onboard."

'THE SHOW MADE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF'

On our second day aboard Discovery Princess, Mica and I joined more than 200 couples in a giant vow-renewal ceremony presided over by original cast members Cynthia Lauren Tewes (Julie), Ted Lange (Isaac), Bernie Kopell (Doc), Fred Grandy (Gopher) and Jill Whelan (Vicki Stubing).

We gathered in the ship's central atrium, which was festooned with a giant gold-colored heart. Some women wore veils. Many of the men wore suits. More of us, myself included, had donned floral Hawaiian shirts — the preferred garb of Gavin MacLeod, who played the part of Captain Stubing.

MacLeod died in May 2021 at the age of 90, and his absence was palpable. At one of the ship-wide gatherings on Discovery Princess, cast members paid tribute to him.

"Gavin made you feel good about yourself," said Grandy. "The show made you feel good about yourself. And there are no shows that do that anymore."

Now, I have a confession: I passed my teens and early 20s during the height of the show's popularity, but "The Love Boat" barely cracked my consciousness. At age 61, I qualified for the right era on this cruise, but as a social chronicler I represented an outsider — an agnostic in the church's back pew, mumbling along to hymns sung by true believers.

So, at every gathering — the disco party, bartender Isaac's cocktail-making demonstration, a cast question-and-answer session — I found new people and tried to gain a better glimpse of what powerful force had drawn them here decades later.

Their answers meandered down various paths but intersected at a point that can simply be defined as nostalgia. A broad body of research indicates that savoring youth's warm memories can trigger the brain's reward centers — essentially, in this instance, feeling good about remembering a show that made you feel good in the first place.

R.W. Martin of Springfield, Vt., recounted being bullied in high school and refusing to go back. He stayed home and watched a lot of reruns.

"This show helped me through the most difficult time of my life," he said, decked out in a full-dress replica of the ship doctor's costume. "They saved my life. … I saw that if every problem on the ship could be solved, I could face my own problems."

For a 10 a.m. cast Q&A session in the ship's theater, Martin arrived at 7:45 a.m. to ensure a good seat. Next to him in the front row sat Fernando Mayett of Simi Valley, Calif., who arrived at 7:30 a.m.

"I watched all the episodes," Mayett told me. "This is my 53rd cruise, and like millions of people, this is the show that got me hooked into cruising. This is what I love, and if I get my last wish it will be to live on cruise ships and be buried at sea."

I had begun to see the light — the enduring glow of their memories, a power we can all comprehend. That evening, as pianist AJ Clarke invited a lounge crowd to join in singing Elton John's "Crocodile Rock," the words and tune seemed to bridge a distance of five decades. I joined the chorus: I never knew me a better time, and I guess I never will.

Alex Pulaski

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Spin around a kaleidoscopic sculpture

‘PHANTASMA GLORIA’ IN ECHO PARK DRAWS VISITORS FROM NEAR AND FAR

BY JULIA CARMEL

RANDY King Lawrence is the kind of guy you can only describe as a *character*. At 66, he’s got a face with deep-seated smile lines that crack open whenever he meets a new person. He walks around with a pocketful of clear marbles and a lowball glass filled with white wine, uttering phrases like “that’s bitchin’!” with such excitement that you can’t help but agree with him.

To his colleagues in the film industry, he’s a set and prop builder for movies like David Lynch’s “Mulholland Drive” (2001) and “Child’s Play 2” (1990), the second movie about a murderous doll named Chucky. But his neighbors in Echo Park know him as the man who built the “Phantasma Gloria” — his name for the massive contraption of steel rebar and more than 1,000 colorful glass bottles that looms above the front of his home on Lemoyne Street.

“I’m going to ask you all to go up the stairs — don’t peek to the right,” Lawrence eagerly instructed as he guided a small group from the sidewalk into his yard on a recent sunny Sunday. “And then I’m going to ask you all to turn around together.”

The view is worth a grand reveal: As the afternoon sun pours through his huge free-standing sculpture, the curved glass bottles and marbles that hang from its large steel arches glow, becoming part of a multi-dimensional stained glass. A cyan and lime abstraction of the Virgin of Guadalupe radiates within an outline of gleaming red bottles. The massive stencil that Lawrence calls “Bodacious Betty” lights up around the edges of her Afro from small marbles that refract like tiny stars. Some of the sculpture’s bottles are filled with water, and within those are hundreds of delicate renditions of the horizon flipped upside down.

“What you’re seeing now is entirely dependent upon two factors,” he said as his visitors took in the view. “One of which is what’s happening in the sky, specifically, where the light source is — the sun, or the moon, or an ambulance — and the other is how diffused the light is.”

Though he welcomes locals and strangers from around the world, Lawrence is understandably particular about when people come to visit his masterpiece. In his ideal world, everyone arrives about an hour before sunset to see the sun shine through the bottles at his favorite angles. In this way, his ongoing DIY project echoes the work of artists like James Turrell, who has built skyspaces across the country that do light shows at both sunrise and sunset to manipulate the appearance of the sky.

Lawrence started building “Phantasma Gloria” around the turn of the millennium, when he was “languishing in the sea of despond for the unmet yearning to create something new and beautiful in the world.” One afternoon, as he was wistfully staring at Mt. Wilson from his window, the light inside a small blue glass bottle on his windowsill caught his eye.

“So I leaned close, put on my glasses, and I saw those 10,000-foot cumulus clouds shrunken and upside down inside each one,” he said. “And that blazing blue light was the sun itself. And that’s when I realized, ‘My God, I could make mosaics out of 1,000 blazing suns.’ ”

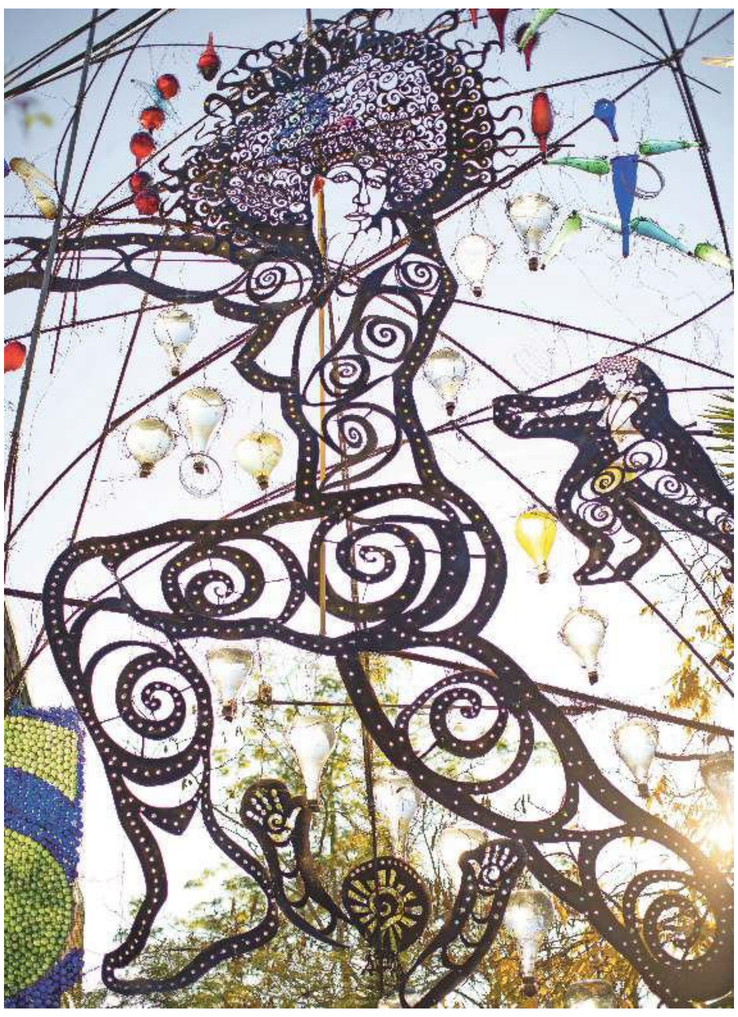
Over the last 23 years, he’s built and rebuilt the sculpture numerous times and captured various photos of its evolution. As of 2023, “Phantasma Gloria” stands at about 30 feet tall and 90 feet long — about the same length as three stretch limos. Lawrence said he’s built all of it himself, aside from one friend who cleaned some of the bottles a few years ago.

There are many reasons why Lawrence invites strangers to experience the beauty of his front yard. Sometimes he likes to wax poetic about capturing thousands of stars; other times he’ll refer to the sculpture as his “low-hanging fruit” — a project so simple and natural for him that it would be a shame to not see it through.

“The ‘fruit’ is the sensual experience of life,” Lawrence said. “I’m trying to give you an idea of how the same exact array of steel and glass delivers in an endlessly changing — and often magnificently changing — visual experience.”

The spectacle of the sculpture isn’t the only thing that draws people to Lawrence’s front yard. Talking with him often feels like talking with your favorite art teacher or your most eccentric uncle: encouraging, odd and electrifying all at once.

“It turns out we have two crystal balls in the front of our eyes, but they’re more lentil-shaped as opposed to spherical — that’s why they’re called lenses,” Lawrence explained one afternoon as he held a marble in front of my eye.



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

RANDY KING LAWRENCE’S “Phantasma Gloria” includes a figure called “Bodacious Betty.”

“And if you position the lens,” he continued, “you can make an endless number of visual experiences or images.”

Lawrence wasn’t always an artist in the traditional sense. Born on an “exotic island in New York Harbor” that most people know as Staten Island, he’s a self-dubbed Army brat whose family lived in Germany, Texas, New Mexico and Virginia before moving to California. As his father traveled to Vietnam for his work in military intelligence, his mother decided to move the family from Donner Lake, Calif., to La Jolla. There, Lawrence started to feel the urge to capture and refract beauty.

“La Jolla is so goddamn beautiful and sensual,” he said. “I spent a lot of time in the water and under the water, and I think that the psychedelics [I did] and the ocean had a big impact on my imagination.”

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in economics, Lawrence worked as a reporter on what he calls the “bereavement beat” — writing about the recently deceased — for the Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram.

He left that job to work as an organizer for the United Farm Workers before he started managing local political campaigns and working as a writer for the Democratic whip in the California Legislature. Once he grew bored with that, he wandered around Mexico, staying afloat by importing duffel bags full of leather jackets that he resold in L.A.

In the 1980s, when he was living with a girlfriend who gave him an ultimatum of either proposing or moving out, Lawrence got a job offer from a friend to build fake spaceships for Roger Corman, the trailblazing indie filmmaker who launched the careers of Francis Ford Coppola, Jack Nicholson and Martin Scorsese, among others. That job allowed him to move out and became the start of his long-term career, working on props and set construction for TV and films.

Lawrence moved into his current house on Lemoyne Street in 1991, living there for much of the time with his now ex-wife, Nicole Lawrence. They’re still close friends, and he’s particularly excited for Nicole’s next project: She’s planning to release a children’s book based on her experiences living in an artist’s home that was typically in disrepair.

“Nina lives with her artist dad in an old run-down house with a giant glass dragon in their front yard,” Nicole wrote in a draft of her book.

“Nina knows the people also see her home is old and broken,” she later adds. “The rooms have no doors, but lots of holes in the walls.”

But even in the book, the eccentric house has redeeming qualities. By the end of the story, when Nina’s friend comes to visit and comments on how cool her home is, she begins to feel proud to live there.

The story isn’t far off from reality. Lawrence first started building “Phantasma Gloria” when he was avoiding fixing a huge hole in his backyard. He knows the house could use more practical love and attention inside, but he still has plans to build a dragon in the backyard.

“If you get in the river of creativity and you stay there, you have to act on whatever your idea is — not all of them, but be acting on at least one all the time,” Lawrence said.

“When you finish it, you reflect on what you’ve done, and then the next idea will come,” he added. “And then 20 years later you’ll think, ‘My God, my life has been so much more fun than it would have been otherwise.’ ”

Schedule a visit to “Phantasma Gloria” by sending a message to Lawrence on Instagram @randylandla.

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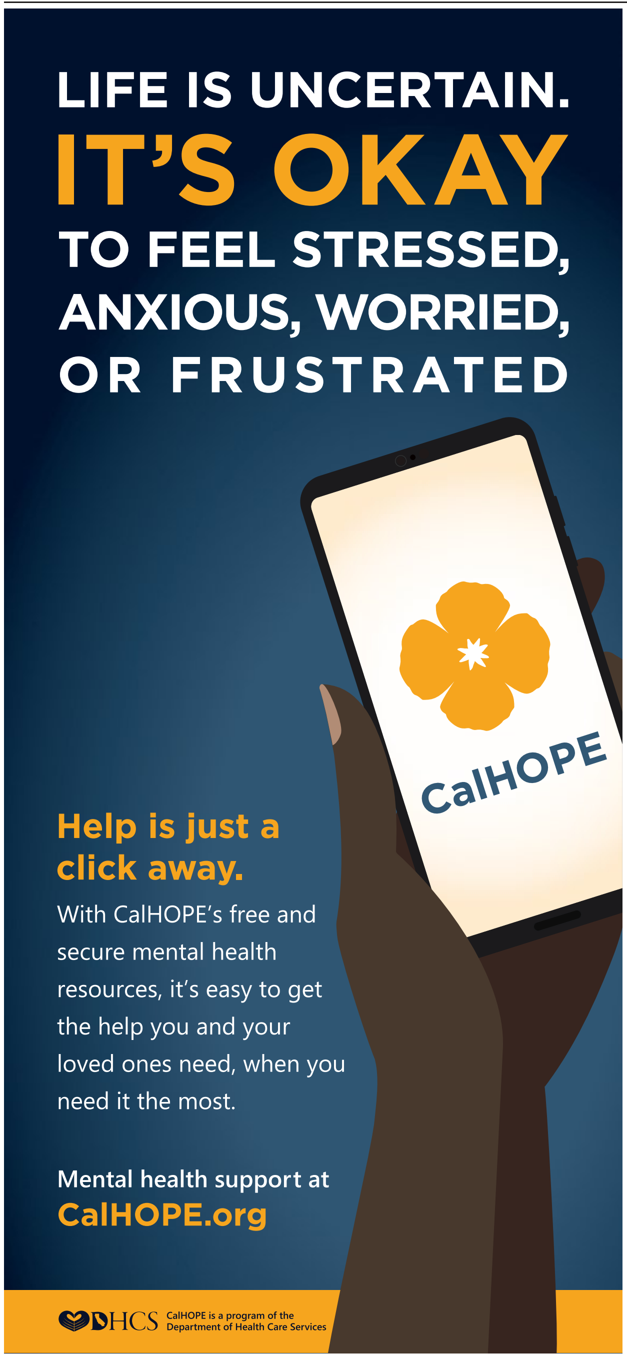

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Illustration by PATRICK HRUBY Los Angeles Times

WANT WILDFLOWERS THIS SPRING? ACT NOW

WITH THE RECENT RAIN, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO SCATTER SEEDS

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS

LOVE IT or hate it, SoCal's recent deluge likely will fuel one silver lining come spring: a massive wildflower bloom in our hills and deserts. And more good news: It's not too late to create a superbloom in your yard — or even a patio box — if you plant as soon as you can in January, says Tim Becker, wildflower expert and director of horticulture at the Theodore Payne Foundation.

Typically, the best time to plant wildflower seeds is in November and early December, Becker said, so the seeds can benefit from winter rains and have time to grow tall, sturdy plants. Wildflowers need moist conditions to germinate and grow, pushing their roots deep into the soil to follow the moisture underground. But with all the rain we've gotten in January, there's still time to scatter wildflower seeds in your yard and get good results, he said.

Another bonus: Wildflowers are self-seeding, so once you get a good bloom and let them go to seed, they'll pretty much take care of themselves after that, said Becker, who often mixes seeds for edible spicy mustard greens, lettuce, arugula, cilantro and other greens into his personal wildflower mix so he can forage for food among his flowers.

If you let the greens go to seed, they'll reseed along with the wildflowers, he said. But be aware you might have to do some thinning. "When you let your wildflowers and greens grow everywhere, you'll have lettuce and poppies coming out of the cracks in your driveway."

At some point, you might have to weed out your reseeding plants if they grow in areas where you don't want them, but they're fairly easy to manage, Becker said. Remember, we're talking *wild*flowers, right? So if you want to shake the stuffiness out of your landscape, here are Becker's tips for how to get started:

1 Get some good seed
Most nurseries sell wildflower mixes, but if you're interested in building habitat and discouraging invasive species like African daisy, aim for mixes or seeds that are native to California to help local insects and birds. This time of year, some wildflower mixes may be sold out, but the region's two premier native plant nurseries — Tree of Life Nursery near San Juan Capistrano and Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley — offer seed mixes and packets for individual flowers you can buy at their stores or order online. Becker said other good online sources for California wildflower seeds include Mojave Desert Land Trust in Joshua Tree, Larner Seeds in Marin County, Seedhunt in central California and Sierra Seed Supply in Plumas County.

Note that you can purchase up to a pound of seed mixes from Theodore Payne, depending on the size of ground you want to cover.

Unless you want a carpet of one flower, such as a rich orange expanse of California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) or a glowing blanket of yellow goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), it's more fun and better for habitat building to plant a mix of flowers, which you can create yourself or buy ready-made, Becker said. Some of his favorites beyond California poppies and lupine include gilia; nemophila (baby blue eyes); *Layia platyglossa* (tidy tips) — yellow daisy-like flowers with white edging; clarkia (which come in many colors); phacelia (which look like arching purple caterpillars); and *Salvia columbariae* or chia, an annual sage that produces chia seeds.

Planting a mix enhances biodiversity and gives you a longer season of wildflower blooms, Becker said: "I recommend you have anywhere from five to 10 species in your mix." Bonus: Some premade mixes might even include smaller perennials like yarrow, blue flax or perennial lupine, he said. Just read the packets to see what you're planting.

2 Choose a place to plant
Ideally, you already have some bare, unmulched ground, such as a former lawn or parkway. "Clear the weeds there and plant some wildflowers. It's so damned easy," Becker said. The trick is to do some gentle prep without compacting the soil, which can damage emerging seedlings and reduce infiltration, making it more susceptible to runoff. If the ground is already prepared — meaning it doesn't have weeds and is already lightly cultivated — Becker said you can just scatter seeds on the damp soil (more about that technique below).

If you need to do some prep work, wait a week after rain for the ground to dry out slightly; you don't want to walk on super-saturated ground because it will compact the soil. The ground should still be damp but not saturated, he said. Use a metal rake (a.k.a. a bow rake) or a hula hoe to rough up the first 3 to 4 inches of soil to make it easier for seeds to grow. You can work some compost into the soil too, but only down about 3 to 4 inches, he said. Don't go in with a shovel and start digging. Wildflowers like disturbed soil but won't sprout if they're buried too deep.

"The important thing is don't cultivate during or right after a heavy rainstorm," he said. "Go get your seeds and wait a week or so until the upper few inches of the soil has drained out a bit."

One tip: If you've just removed your lawn and recently planted some perennial native or drought-tolerant plants, instead of mulching around the new plants, plant wildflowers to act as mulch during the winter, and then add your wood-based mulch in the spring, after they bloom.

3 Remove any weed sprouts
Invasive weeds are big competition for wildflowers, easily outpacing and crowding them out, so here is where your hula hoe can come in handy, just slicing off emerging weeds at the ground so the wildflowers have a fighting chance. You can also hand pull the weeds, whichever is easiest. Just remember that the more weeds you leave in the ground, the less space, sun and nutrients your flowers will have to grow.

4 Size up your planting area
Figure out the size of the area you want to plant, then read your seed packets to see how much area one packet covers. Be sure to buy enough seed for the area you want to plant.

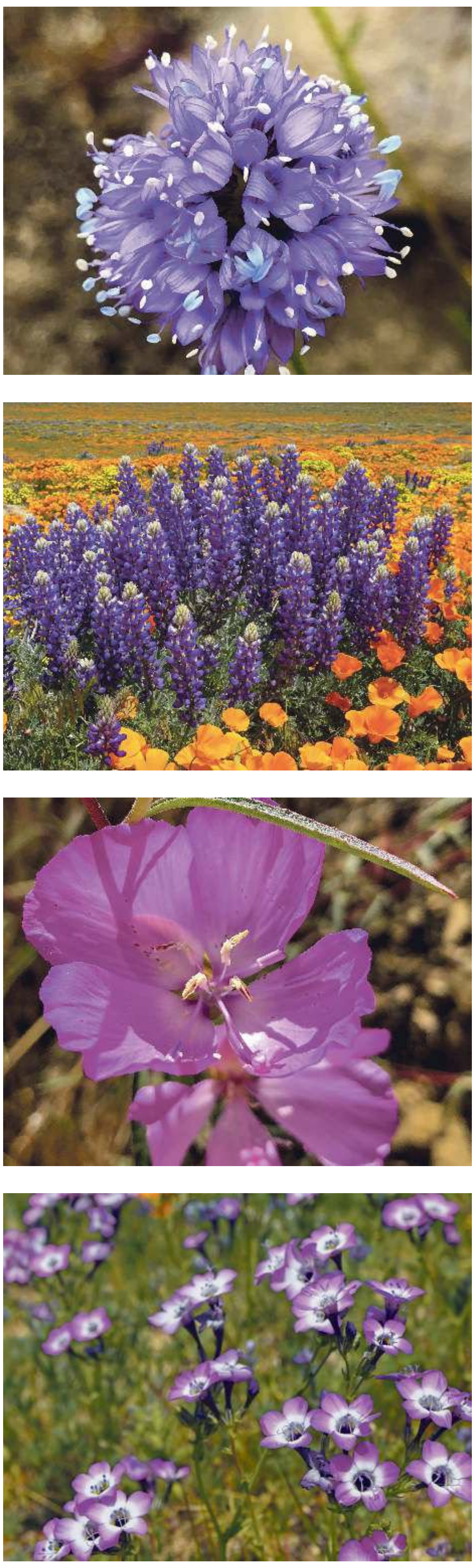
5 Mix your seeds with native soil
Fill a 5-gallon bucket about halfway with soil from the garden where you intend to plant and then use your hands to thoroughly mix in your packet or packets of seeds. Mixing the seeds with damp garden soil — "not overly wet or dry" — makes it easier to evenly scatter them around your growing area, Becker said. You can also use horticultural sand, but Becker prefers using the soil where the seeds will be growing. This technique is especially good for young children who want to help. "All you do is pick up handfuls from the bucket and start scattering them around," he said. "It's a fun activity to do with your kids."

6 Lightly rake over the seeded area
After you sow the seeds, use a leaf rake to lightly "nest" the seeds into the soil. If rain is expected that evening or the next day, let the rainfall soak the seeds into the ground. If no rain is expected, use the shower nozzle on your hose and dampen the seeded area to help settle the seeds into the ground and start their germination, which typically takes about 10 to 14 days. Note: If you're planting on a hillside, Becker said, you'll need to work the seeds into the soil a little more to be sure they don't wash away in the next rainfall.

7 Don't kill your sprouts!
You want to keep weeds out of the seeded area, but you don't want to remove emerging wildflowers. So if you're not sure whether the sprout you see is a weed or wildflower, let it grow a while longer until you can identify what's coming up. And be sure to tell your gardener or landscaper that you've planted wildflowers so they don't weed up your hard work! Pro tip: If you have a lot of weeds in your garden, get some potting soil and grow a few of your wildflowers in a pot so you can more easily identify the emerging plants you want to keep, Becker said.

8 Planting in containers
Theodore Payne has a special wildflower mix for pots that calls for containers at least 12 to 14 inches wide and 6 inches deep, but Becker said you can plant wildflowers in any container at least 4 inches deep. "The bigger the container the more you can grow," he said. Just be sure to use potting soil mixes with good drainage, such as soils designed for cactus and succulents. Remember, Becker said, the smaller the container, the more water it's going to need because it will dry out faster. So in the case of planting wildflowers, the wider the container, the better.

You can also scatter wildflowers around a potted perennial, he said. "Wildflowers can be a living mulch in a garden or in a container."



Photographs by TIM BECKER

GREAT NATIVE SEEDS to plant right now for a blooming crop of wildflowers this spring include, from top, gilia; lupine and California poppies, in complementary colors; clarkia, which comes in many colors including purple; and tricolor gilia.

What Lunar New Year could bring for 2023

TODAY USHERS IN THE YEAR OF THE WATER RABBIT IN THE CHINESE ZODIAC AND THE YEAR OF THE CAT IN THE VIETNAMESE ONE.

BY ADA TSENG

PEOPLE often assume Frankie Huang is a rabbit. ❡ She was born in Beijing in January 1987 — after the start of the Gregorian new year but before the start of the Lunar New Year. ❡ In the Chinese zodiac, rabbits were born in 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951 and so on — but after the Lunar New Year, which in 2023 falls on Sunday. So Huang, born at the tail end of the Tiger year, has always felt like a "secret tiger." ❡ People think of bunnies as cute, soft and cuddly — something to be protected — said Huang, a writer and illustrator now based in Massachusetts. In Chinese culture, bunnies are often feminized, associated with the Jade Rabbit that lives with the moon goddess and symbolizes selflessness, piety and sacrifice.

SCAN THE QR CODE with your smartphone to read about another aspect of Lunar New Year: all the giftable, craveable items, many of them rabbit-themed, inspired by the holiday.

Maybe it comes from being an Asian woman and always being underestimated, Huang said, but her whole life, she's felt like saying: "No, I'm strong and angry, and I will fight you."

Recently, though, Huang has been rethinking her own stereotypes of the calm and docile rabbit. She's in her second trimester of pregnancy with a future Year of the Rabbit baby. She's having a boy.

The rabbit is the symbol for the #MeToo movement in China, she pointed out. #RiceBunny was coined by Chinese feminist activist Qiqi to avoid censorship. In Mandarin, "me" sounds like "rice," and "too" sounds like "bunny."

She also thinks of the idiom "the crafty rabbit has three burrows," referring to a rabbit's vigilance and resourcefulness, as well as the last section from "Ballad of Mulan": "The buck bounds here and there, Whilst the doe has narrow eyes. But when the two rabbits run side by side, How can you tell the female from the male?"

In the U.S., we think of Jan. 1 as the start of the new year, but in Asian cultures, the multiweek celebration of Lunar New Year is another chance to put the past behind us and usher in new possibilities. And the zodiac can serve as a compass for where things may be heading. What will the Year of the Rabbit bring in 2023?

Perhaps some clues can be found at the world's largest collection of rabbit-related items: the Bunny Museum in Altadena.

Museum co-founder Candace Frazee said more than half of the visitors to the Bunny Museum are Asian, many coming from abroad because they are born in rabbit years. 2023 will be a double celebration, because it's not only the Year of the Rabbit but also the museum's 25th anniversary.

According to Frazee, Huang's suspicions about rabbits are correct — in nature, they're hardly meek creatures. Rabbits are prey animals, Frazee explained, which means they're always trying to avoid being eaten. They're swift and their instinct is to flee. They throw things around if they don't like them in their area, and they fight. "Fur does fly," she said.

But the zodiac rabbit is known for peace, diplomacy and luck, said Laura Lau, co-author of "The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes."

A person born in a particular year takes on the traits of that year's animal, according to superstition. And each individual year — and how various animals experience that year — will be affected by those characteristics as well.

"The rabbit is about making things nice," said Lau. "That doesn't mean that the rabbit year doesn't have drama underneath, but it's kind of like, 'Let's be polite. Let's maintain etiquette. Let's move forward. Let's have more productivity.' "

Each year also has an element, and this year is the water rabbit. Water in general makes the animal more meditative, emotional and empathetic, Lau explains. Last year, the water toned down the fierceness of the Tiger, while this year, the water makes the rabbit more introspective and sensitive.

This may come as a relief to those who have felt the effects of the Year of the Tiger, which is known for bringing a lot of passion and change but also unpredictability and explosiveness.

Desmond Chiam, an actor best known for his role as the super-soldier Dovich from "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier" (who is also a rabbit), said he aspires to be gentle.

His Singaporean parents said when Chiam was a kid growing up in Australia, he was very gentle and quiet. That was a point of pride for his parents, he said, who also told him that their family tried to have as many rabbits as possible to keep family peace.

He has a few other cousins and aunts who are rabbits. "Rabbits have taken over," he said. "And we do have a relatively peaceful family."

OiYan Poon, a race and education researcher who's writing a forthcoming book — a collection of letters to her 7-year-old daughter about what it means to be Asian in America — said she was always proud to be a rabbit. As a kid, she'd read her horoscope on those ubiquitous Chinese restaurant placemats and think, "Yes, I *am* quick-witted. Yes, I *am* a natural-born leader."

Poon considers the zodiac as a "fun thing where it kind of becomes a joke." But sometimes it's true. For example, animals across from each other on the zodiac wheel — rabbits and roosters, for example — aren't supposed to get along.

And she and her younger brother, a rooster, *did not get along* when they were growing up, she said.

Lau explained that roosters are supposed to be inflexible — her brother is *so* inflexible, Poon affirmed, laughing — and therefore will have a harder time this rabbit year, along with impulsive tigers and horses. The animals that will be able to adjust more easily to the rabbit's more diplomatic, less direct communication style are the sheep, the dog and the boar.

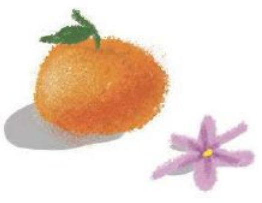
Interestingly, 2023 also is an uncommon year where the Chinese and Vietnamese animals differ. In the Vietnamese zodiac, the Year of the Rabbit, fourth in the zodiac cycle, is replaced by the Year of the Cat.

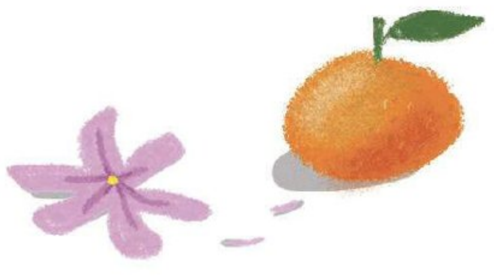
Why are there two different animals this year?

The story behind the Chinese zodiac starts with a race organized by the Jade Emperor. As the tale goes, animals competed to be part of the top 12, and the winners of the race determined the order of the zodiac.

But a lot of folklore diverges depending on where it travels, said Charles Liu, who co-founded Irvine's A Little Dynasty Chinese School. Even now, the school's teachers still teach the kids Lunar New Year stories, but the details of them depend on who's teaching it.

Lau said that some Chinese zodiac experts — including her late mother, who published





Illustrations by LI ANNE LIEW For The Times

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

ADA TSENG Los Angeles Times

A LIVE BUNNY, top left, lives among toy bunnies at the Bunny Museum in Altadena, which celebrates its 25th anniversary and Year of the Rabbit. Below, Tora the Trucker Cat in Sedona, Ariz., in Mye Hoang's documentary "Cat Daddies."

MYE HOANG

the first edition of "The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes" in 1979 — see the cat as represented in the Tiger year. But in one popular Chinese rendition of the story, the rat and the cat were best friends who plan to compete together, said Liu. On the morning of, however, the rat sneaks off without the cat. The rat wins, while the cat oversleeps and misses the whole race. This betrayal explains not only why the cat is not on the zodiac but also why cats hate mice.

There are multiple explanations for why the Vietnamese zodiac has a cat, said Quyen Di Chuc Bui. He's a Vietnamese language lecturer at UCLA who went viral in 2019 when a student posted a video of him handing out stuffed animals in class to reward students for their hard work.

Many believe it may have evolved from a confusion in pronunciation, because the word for rabbit in Old Chinese is pronounced "mao," similar to the sound "mèo" in Vietnamese. Chuc Bui said it might also be because ancient Vietnamese people who originally lived in the lowlands preferred a more domestic animal like the cat over a wild animal like the rabbit.

Emmerick Doan, one of the organizers of the UVSA Tet Festival, which takes place Jan. 27-29 at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, said there's another theory that Vietnamese farmers often dealt with rats invading their crops, so they developed a special affinity for the cats that would kill the rats.

For the purposes of astrology, rabbits and cats share similar characteristics.

"From what I know, cats are really ambitious," said Doan. "They're really agile, and there's a duality to them, where they're sensitive but there's also a lot of tenacity."

Rabbits know how to enjoy life, said Lau — and enjoying life is definitely something cats also like to do, said Mye Hoang, the director of "Cat Daddies," a documentary that follows nine men whose lives have been forever changed by their love of cats. Her older sister Dian Hoang always says that if she were reincarnated, she'd want to come back as one of Mye's cats.

Mye Hoang has been traveling to film festivals with the film — most recently visiting cat cafes in Japan — but she didn't realize 2023 was the Year of the Cat until Dian called her from Dallas, insisting on ordering Year of the Cat red envelopes to give out during Mye's Lunar New Year screenings.

"You'd think that I, out of everyone — the person who made a cat documentary and is Vietnamese American — would have known this," Mye said.

Dian Hoang, who lived in Saigon until she was a teenager, always helped their late father pack the new year red envelopes. This year, she went to four separate banks to gather crisp bills to fill 18 envelopes with one $5 bill, a $2 bill and two $1 bills. The number 9, in addition to symbolizing a cat's nine lives, is a lucky number in Vietnamese culture, Dian Hoang explained.

On Jan. 22, Mye will screen the film in Tucson, Ariz. — coincidentally, the hometown of her husband, Dave Boyle, who partly inspired the film — and handing out lucky cat envelopes to those who ask questions during the Q&A.

Will we have a year of peace?

People are often more familiar with the Jade Rabbit, but there is a lesser-known Rabbit God called Tu'er Shen — which the poet Chen Chen uses as his Twitter display name.

Chen figures that most people who can't read Chinese probably assume it's his actual name. But the Rabbit God has special meaning to him.

He first learned about the patron god of queer love from a short film by Andrew Thomas Huang, "Kiss of the Rabbit God." It surprised Chen that this deity was from Fujian, his home province. There's a shrine in Taiwan dedicated to the Rabbit God, and queer Chinese couples make pilgrimages there to receive blessings, he said.

You could say this knowledge gave some peace to a young man trying to reconcile his Chinese American and queer identities. He's writing about this in his debut book of essays, "In Cahoots With the Rabbit God," scheduled for release in 2023.

Victor Narro, the project director for the UCLA Labor Center born in 1963, relates to both his cat and rabbit zodiac signs. He teaches a popular spirituality, mindfulness and self-compassion class that focuses on healing.

"Activists and social justice workers are constantly burning out emotionally, physically and mentally, and then you struggle with finding a sense of purpose," he said. He wanted to create a space to talk about how to deal with anger, have courageous conversations and be kind.

He thinks we especially need some peace coming out of a chaotic year.

Cats in Vietnamese culture also are thought to bring luck and peace of mind, said Chuc Bui.

Though he doesn't believe in the zodiac superstitions, many in the Vietnamese community take them very seriously, he said.

Tra-my Le, from Garden Grove, is nervous about 2023. She says that rabbits born in the summer of 1975 face more challenges in relationships than those born in the spring or fall that year. She's still reeling after two divorces. But through the Vietnamese psychic readers she follows on YouTube, she's learned it's most important for her to focus on her health this year.

Soowon Lee, a rabbit based in Rancho Palos Verdes, said her Korean mother always told her she holds an excessive amount of fire, according to her astrology chart. She was told to be careful with her health, otherwise she'd have a heart attack by 50. She also was told that if she and her first husband stayed together, he would die before her. The marriage lasted only a couple of years.

The Chinese zodiac can be pretty blunt, said Chiam.

"I remember reading some of the horoscopes in my aunt's apartment, and some of them are like, 'Your year is gonna be filled with death.' There are no mitigating factors. Just get ready for a bad year."

It can be hard not to believe when you see other predictions come true, Lee admits. But now, when she hears astrological advice, she tries to take the good stuff and let the bad stuff go.

But Lau argues that all of these characteristics and elements in the Chinese zodiac have both positives and negatives. For example, rabbits know how to enjoy life, which is good, she said, but when the focus on individual happiness gets too extreme, you start to see community break down.

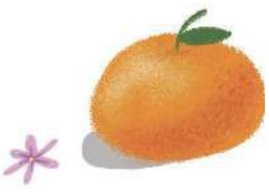
Rabbits also are known for being polite, but the opposite side of diplomacy is that there is going to be a temptation to ghost people this year, she warned. "Rabbits tend to disappear," she said. "When things get too messy or painful, they don't show up. … And that doesn't make things better. Plus, it's irritating."

Whether someone has a good or bad year is always personal and subjective, Lau said.

Huang agrees that astrology, whether it's the constellations of the Western zodiac or the animals of the Chinese one, is just another way of thinking about life, symbols and relationships.

And it's fun. "In Beijing, especially, you can buy these clay figurines of a rabbit in full military regalia, with a plume hat and everything," she said. "I'm trying to buy one, because I think it's really cute, and I want to put it in the nursery."

One of the most popular renditions of this toy, she realized, is the rabbit deity riding a tiger. For Huang, it's an image that feels incredibly fitting.

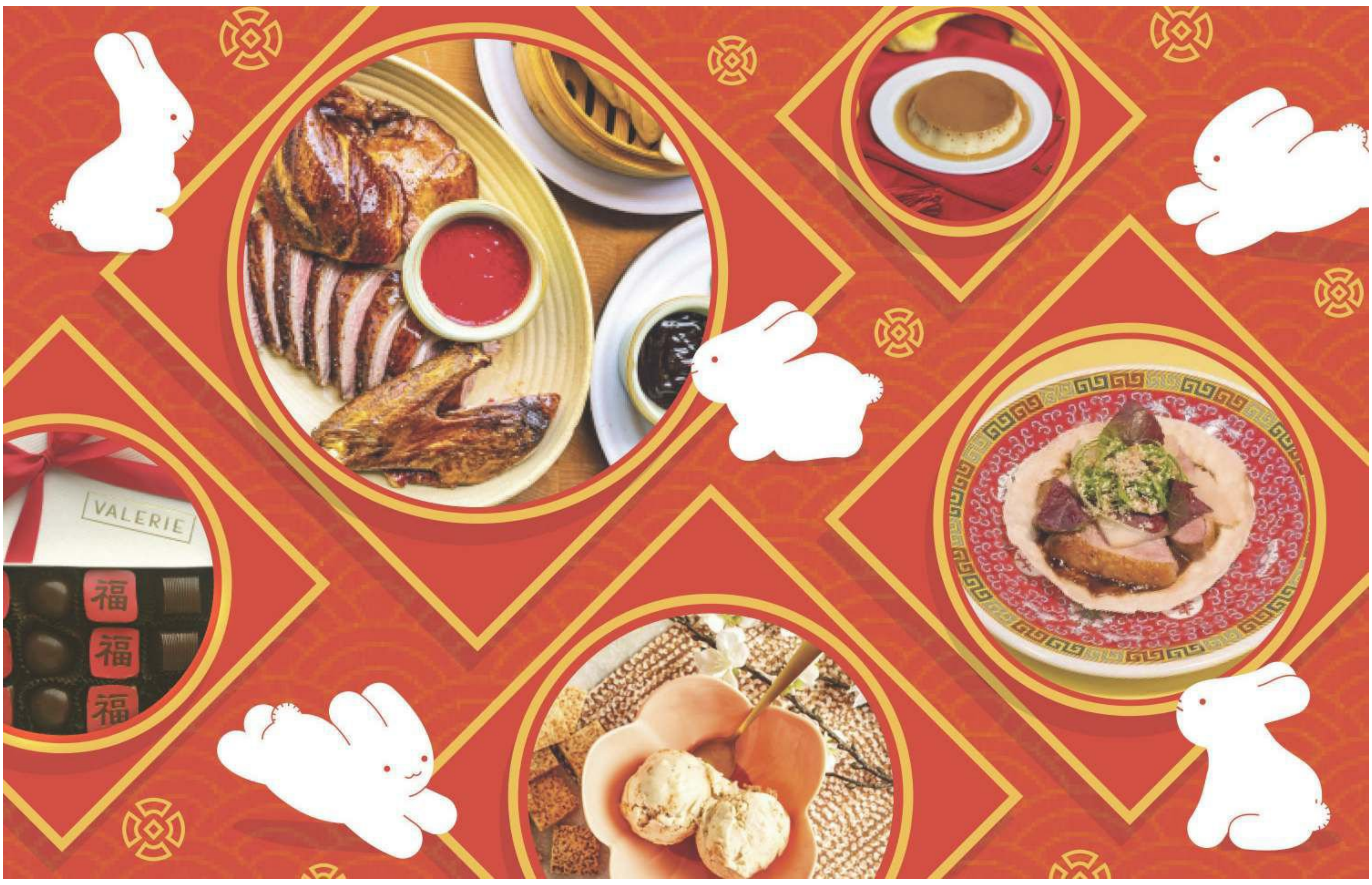


CELEBRATE AT LOCAL FESTIVALS

Our reporters will be taking the L.A. Times "Ask a Reporter" stand to the Lunar New Year festival in Monterey Park and the Tet Festival in Costa Mesa. Come by and say hello! Here's when we'll be there:

Lunar New Year Festival
When: Jan. 22
Where: Garvey Avenue, between Garfield and Alhambra avenues, Monterey Park
Cost: Free
More info: *lunarnewyears.com*

UVSA Tet Festival
When: Jan. 28
Where: OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa
Cost: $8
More info: *tetfestival.org*



Brandon Ly Los Angeles Times

A tasty start to new year

CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT WITH SPECIAL MENUS, FUN FESTIVALS AND A PARADE

BY DANIELLE DORSEY

MARKED by the cycles of the new moon, the Lunar New Year is celebrated across China, Tibet, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan and other parts of Asia, and with plenty of fanfare right here in Los Angeles. This year's festivities will begin today and can last up to two weeks, with celebrations that include gift-giving, parades and, of course, plenty of food.

"It's a wonderful and joyous way to celebrate and remember my heritage," says Alice Cherng, co-owner of L.A.-based Dear Bella Creamery. "I was born and raised in Taiwan until I immigrated to L.A. when I was 8 years old, so Chinese New Year was very much part of my childhood. On the other hand, my 3-year-old daughter is half Chinese and was born and raised in L.A. She has no idea that pineapple means luck and fortune and tang yuan means togetherness." Cherng says her hope is to start conversations about the symbolism, history and culture of Lunar New Year as a way to continue tradition.

For chef Andrew Marco of Koreatown's Open Market, the Lunar New Year is also an opportunity to create new traditions, ones that can only exist here in L.A. The neighborhood market is hosting its annual Lunar New Year dinner, which Marco describes as "an ode to two big immigrant populations in this city, Chinese and Mexican, and finding the intersections between the two."

The Lunar New Year is a time to call in prosperity, health and good luck. Centered around family, food and celebration, here are the best festivals, limited dinner engagements and dessert specials across L.A. to help you ring in the Year of the Rabbit, a universal symbol of hope and renewal.

HOP WOO

Hop Woo is ringing in the Lunar New Year with several special menus to fit any budget, including traditional poon choy — a single-pot feast with a variety of meats and vegetables — for six people available with or without seafood ($168 without, $238 with); a roast suckling pig that feeds 12 to 18 ($268); a roast pig that can feed up to 40 ($318); plus smaller dinners such as braised dried oyster with fat choy ($48), a vegetable whose name is a homonym for part of the new year greeting "gong hei fat choy"; and braised pig feet with fat choy ($38).

The restaurant, a beloved fixture in Chinatown's dining scene for 30 years, faced the unexpected loss in May 2022 of chef Lupe Liang, who joyfully ran Hop Woo alongside his wife Judy and dedicated staff. It has remained committed to the late chef's vision of Cantonese cuisine fused with subtle Baja California flavors. Lunar New Year items, available through Jan. 25, require a 50% in-person deposit and two days' advance notice.

● *11110 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, (310) 575-3668, hopwoo chinesefood.com*

OPEN MARKET

The Koreatown sandwich and wine shop is celebrating the Lunar New Year on Jan. 26 with a menu that remixes holiday favorites to honor the city's wide-ranging culinary identity. Tuck into the team's take on Peking duck, including dry-aged and cured duck breast with five-spice duck leg confit, served with duck fat fried rice, duck jus hoisin, fermented salsa, scallion salad, smashed cucumbers and tortillas from Mejorado, the tortilleria behind Burritos La Palma. Finish it off with a tres leches cake that's layered with forbidden rice horchata and five-spice cake. Whole ducks run $130 each and half-ducks are $90 each with all the fixings, with preorders available on the website.

● *3339 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, openmarket.la*

CRUSTACEAN BEVERLY HILLS

An early pioneer of Asian-European fusion cuisine, this gilded classic in Beverly Hills is celebrating Lunar New Year with an eight-course Heaven & Earth Prosperity Menu ($180 per person), available through Jan. 28. Each course honors a different aspect of the upcoming year, beginning with a caviar egg to symbolize unity and togetherness; building with a money bag dumpling that highlights this year's chosen animal with rabbit, leeks and Dijon cream; and concluding with a rich and gooey butter cake with exotic fruit and coconut consommé. Select items from the Lunar New Year menu will be available a la carte and red envelopes representing good luck will be given to all diners through Jan. 28, with vouchers like complimentary cocktails, an entree of An's famous garlic-roasted Dungeness crab or a discount on your final check.

● *468 N. Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, (310) 205-8990, crustacean bh.com*

KATO

Claiming the No. 3 spot on our 101 Best Restaurants list is this Michelin-starred stunner that marries Taiwanese cuisine with L.A.'s seasonality in a spacious and sleek dining room. For the second year in a row, chef Jon Yao is celebrating Lunar New Year by offering a themed nine-course dinner with wine pairings included ($325 per ticket). As with Kato's regular tasting menu, the exact dishes are under wraps until you arrive, but you can expect a seafood-focused journey that draws inspiration from Asian American and Taiwanese cooking. The dinners will take place from Jan. 24, through Jan. 28, with seatings at 5 and 8 p.m.

● *777 S. Alameda St., Building 1, Suite 114, Los Angeles, kato restaurant.com*

MEROIS

Wolfgang Puck's elegant rooftop restaurant at Pendry West Hollywood is celebrating Lunar New Year with a prix fixe menu that showcases the chef's signature pan-Asian bites and customer favorites like a king crab bao bun and star anise-braised short rib, plus specialty cocktails served alongside live entertainment — just in case 360-degree views of the glittering L.A. skyline aren't enough of a show. The prix fixe Lunar New Year dinner is $165 per person and available Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28.

● *8430 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, (323) 433-1410, pendry .com/west-hollywood/dining /merois*

PARADISE DYNASTY

The spacious Singaporean restaurant in South Coast Plaza's Collage Culinary Experience Food Hall is well-suited to Lunar New Year celebrations with a year-round menu of dumplings and noodles — including its famed flavored soup dumplings. This year, says Eldwin Chua, Paradise Dynasty CEO and founder, "We wanted to offer a special menu highlighting some of the most popular dishes that are typically eaten during the holiday, but with our own twists." That means stir-fried lobster in XO sauce ($78.88), poached chicken in black truffle sauce ($38.88 half chicken; $77.76 whole chicken) and fish maw soup with dried scallop and crab meat ($22.88 for two to four and $38.88 for four to six people). The restaurant also plans to hand out about 3,500 lucky red envelopes with $10 vouchers for Paradise Dynasty and $5 vouchers for sister concept Le Shrimp Noodle Bar, through Feb. 12 or while supplies last.

● *3333 Bristol Street, BLM, 1 Bloomingdale's, Costa Mesa, (714) 617-4630, paradisegp .com/USA*

GOLDEN DRAGON PARADE

After a two-year hiatus, the popular Golden Dragon Parade returns to Chinatown on Saturday, Jan. 28, complete with lion dancing, live music and more from 1 to 5 p.m.

● *943 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, chinatownla.com*

ALHAMBRA LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Alhambra's Lunar New Year festival returns for its 29th year on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two entertainment stages and 100 vendor booths offering family-friendly activities and giveaways. Stop by the main stage for cultural performances and demonstrations including lion dancing, a calligraphy workshop and live candy sculpting, plus the return of the Asian Arts Talent Foundation, which will host performances from China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam and other regions. This year's festival will see the debut of a dedicated culinary stage with local chefs preparing their favorite Lunar New Year dishes, in addition to a new wellness pavilion where attendees can take advantage of free testing and health information. The Alhambra Farmers Market will be happening in conjunction with the festival, so you can pick up fresh produce or pantry items.

● *68 W. Main St., Alhambra, alhambralunarnewyear.com*

SANTA MONICA PLACE

Santa Monica Place is bringing back its annual Lunar New Year celebrations on Jan. 28, from 2 to 5 p.m., after a two-year hiatus. Visit the Central Plaza to take in the hanging red and gold lanterns and performances that include traditional lion dancing and balloon artists. Red envelopes with deals from participating on-site restaurants will be given to those in attendance. Don't forget to visit the cherry blossom Wishing Trees and leave a wish for health and prosperity in the new year. Tie a wish onto the trees or pick up a Lunar New Year craft kit for kids through Feb. 4.

l *395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica, (310) 499-2928, santa monicaplace.com*

DEAR BELLA CREAMERY

Taiwanese- and women-owned Dear Bella Creamery is ringing in the Lunar New Year with a special kit filled with everything you'll need for a memorable at-home celebration. Each package comes with a pint of traditional Taiwanese square biscuit ice cream with crushed biscuits; an inspired rendition of tang yuan with sticky rice ice cream, slivers of black sesame paste and peanut powder; and Taiwanese pineapple cake, with chunks of twice-baked, gluten-free shortcake filled with butter-roasted pineapple jam. In addition to the ice cream, you'll also get a jar of house-made sweet red bean sauce, seasonal Chinese candies and snacks, red envelopes for gifting family and friends, and an insulated Dear Bella bag. Orders must be placed at least two days in advance and can be picked up from the Hollywood location. The last day to order the Lunar New Year kit is Feb. 11 for pickup on Feb. 13.

● *1253 Vine St., #12, Los Angeles, (323) 848-4672, dearbella creamery.com/online-shop/p /cnykit*

WANDERLUST CREAMERY

Travel-inspired scoop shop Wanderlust is celebrating Lunar New Year with the release of six bestselling and new ice cream flavors available throughout the month of January. Returning to the menu are seasonal options like white rabbit, which went viral in 2019 for the nostalgic Shanghainese White Rabbit milk candy that features prominently in the recipe; oolong pineapple tart, which combines fragrant Taiwanese milk oolong tea with the pineapple jam-filled butter pastries that are popular gifts at Taiwanese Lunar New Year celebrations; Vietnamese rocky road, featuring Vietnamese coffee ice cream swirled with condensed milk marshmallows, caramelized cacao nibs and bits of French roast; and pandan tres leches, a Southeast Asian take on tres leches cake with chunks of house-made pandan sponge cake and stripes of condensed milk. New flavors include lychee and almond cookie, inspired by Chinatowns across the globe, and creamy apricot almond osmanthus, a dairy-free creation with apricot and almond milk that's infused with sweet osmanthus flowers. Visit any of the six Los Angeles-area shops (in Fairfax, Pasadena, Tarzana, Venice and DTLA's Sunday Smorgasburg, in addition to Atwater Village) to get the Lunar New Year flavors by the scoop or place an order for the six-pint pack online.

● *3134 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, shop.wanderlust creamery.com*

VALERIE CONFECTIONS

On the heels of opening its massive flagship store in Glendale (with another location in Echo Park at 1665 Echo Park Ave.), Valerie Confections is celebrating Lunar New Year with two special chocolate assortments. One is a nine-piece assortment with gilded bittersweet chocolate truffles and crimson chocolates embossed with the Chinese character for "good luck." The other features 15 pieces, including the "good luck" chocolates, gilded bittersweet truffles and liquid caramels. Both chocolate sets are available for online and in-store purchase through the first week of February.

● *1936 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, valerieconfections.com*

EAT YOUR WAY TO LOTS OF LUCK

BY JENN HARRIS

DON'T go to bed with your hair wet or even remotely damp. You'll get headaches. Don't put your chopsticks straight up in your rice. It resembles the incense burned at funerals. Eat lots of greens. They are the color of money.

I've grown up fiercely observing the symbols and superstitions of my Chinese mother and grandmother. And never so fervently as during the Lunar New Year celebration. Specific foods hold meaning and even power depending on who you ask. This can be due to a food or dish's shape, name, pronunciation, history and, in some cases, the traditions of individual families.

"There is so much thought that has gone into what you eat," cookbook author and Chinatown advocate Grace Young said during a recent call. "And the Chinese really believe how you conduct yourself in the first two weeks of the year can completely influence the outcome of your year. And they are so sure that eating specific foods will change that outcome."

Like many Chinese families, Young celebrates with a dinner on the eve of the Lunar New Year, which starts on Sunday. It's a celebratory meal filled with foods meant to bring good fortune and health for all those who partake, usually a medley of eight to nine items, but never four.

"The word for the number four in Cantonese sounds like death," Young said.

Some of Young's favorites include a whole chicken to symbolize a new, proper beginning; clams or scallops because the shapes are similar to coins, which represent wealth and prosperity; roast pig, which symbolizes purification and peace; and a whole fish because the word for fish sounds like the word for "abundance," and means you will have plenty in the coming year.

She also explained the symbolism behind some other popular Lunar New Year foods, including oysters (the word is a homonym for the word for "good things"); mushrooms (symbols for growing fortunes); cilantro (represents compassion); Napa cabbage (the word sounds like "100 wealth" and represents prosperity); rice (a symbol of well-being and prosperity); shrimp (the word for it in Cantonese sounds like "ha," laughter); egg rolls (they look like ancient Chinese coins); lo bak go (the word "go" means rising and symbolizes rising fortunes); sesame balls (the shape symbolizes the wholeness of life); longevity noodles (for long life); and jiaozi (round dumplings that resemble ancient coins and symbolize wealth and prosperity).

This year, Young will aim to source all her Lunar New Year dishes from restaurants in New York's Chinatown, but she says she hopes people will support any independent Asian-owned businesses in Chinatowns, Koreatowns and various Asian neighborhoods around the country. She recently started a campaign with the James Beard Foundation called #SupportChinatowns, encouraging people to share their support of these businesses on social media.

I'll be heading to the San Gabriel Valley to pick up dishes for my family's celebration. Here are three of our favorites.

WHOLE STEAMED FISH FROM TASTE OF MP

There is no shortage of restaurants serving whole steamed fish. Jiang Nan Spring and Newport Seafood both serve excellent versions. But the place my family returns to year after year is the recently renamed Taste of MP (previously New Lucky Seafood). The fish here is steamed perfectly, every time. It offers both sea bass and tilapia, steamed whole in either a black bean sauce or in a puddle of soy and hot oil under a mess of scallions. We opt for the latter, the best way to appreciate the essence of the sea in the fish. Everyone excavates for meat until the bones are clean, then we spoon the leftover sauce onto bowls of rice, or slurp it straight from the plate.

"The fish is one of the most important," my grandmother Tina Wong says. "Every year, you get rich from the fish."

FRIED SPRING ROLLS FROM KING COM TAM

We like to get our fried spring rolls from various Vietnamese restaurants in the San Gabriel Valley. Our current favorites are at King Com Tam, the restaurant around the corner from the Hawaii Supermarket in San Gabriel. The rolls, labeled "egg rolls" on the menu, are golden cigars filled with minced cabbage, carrots, mushroom, ground pork and broken vermicelli noodles. The wrappers are brittle and bubbly, shattering on contact, with an ethereal crunch. It's easy to imagine them resembling a form of valuable currency.

LO BAK GO FROM YI MEI DELI

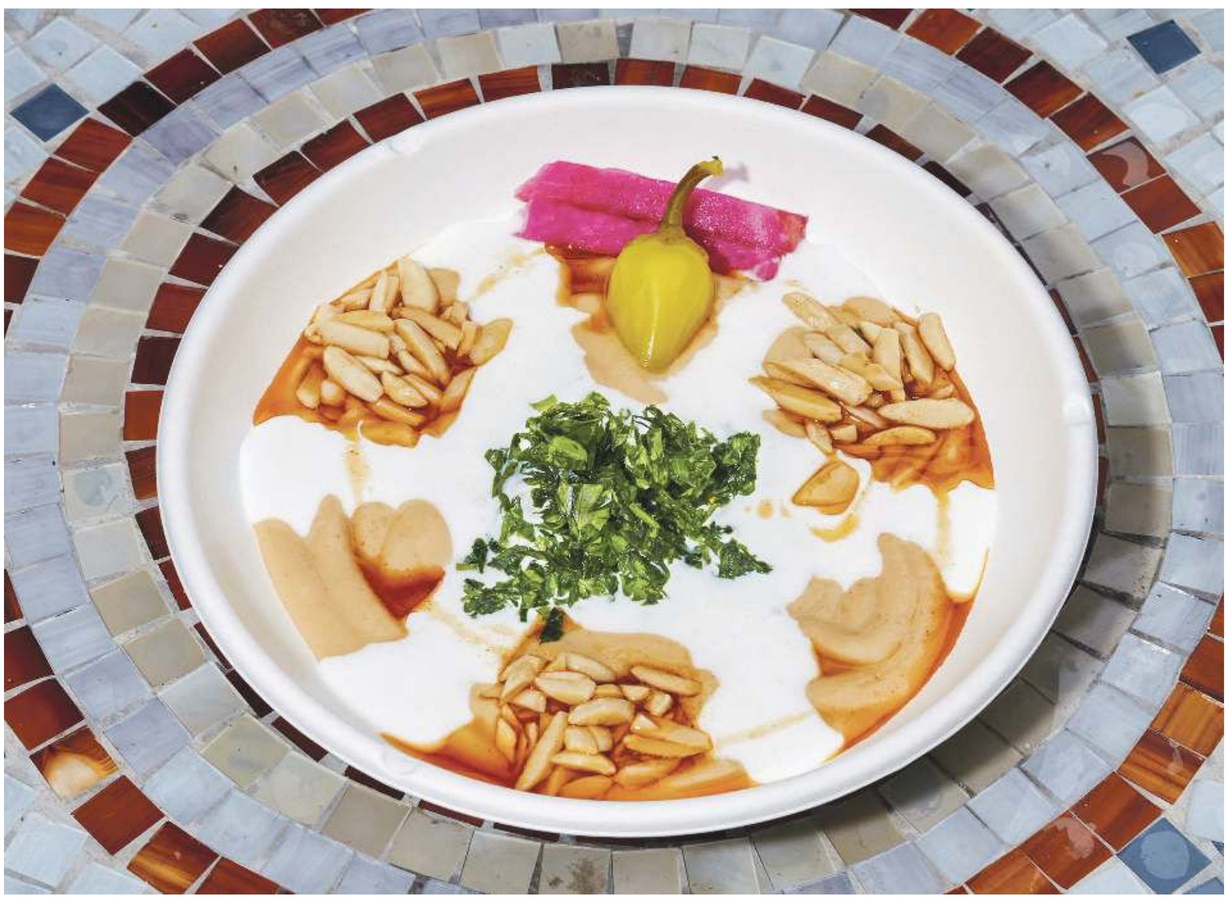
At Yi Mei Deli in San Gabriel, they are listed on the menu as "daikon cakes." At most dim sum houses, the cakes are pan-fried until the tops and bottoms are speckled with brown bits that crisp up in the pan. At Yi Mei, the petite rectangles resemble hash browns, perfectly golden and crispy on all six sides. When the rice flour and radish dough cooks, it creates a sort of crust, but the middle remains soft and almost gooey, studded with minced lap cheong and strands of shredded radish. The cakes are garnished with chopped green onion, and the smell emanating from the box is uncannily similar to sour cream and onion potato chips.

"When you eat lo bak go, everything goes up and up and up," says Grandma.

She's always right.

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

KING COM TAM'S fried spring rolls (labeled egg rolls on the menu) deliver a flaky, ethereal crunch.



Photographs by OSCAR MENDOZA For The Times

RESTAURANT REVIEW

In many ways, pop-up Nawal is a gift to L.A.

SYRIAN AND CIRCASSIAN TASTES OFFER A RICH HISTORY LESSON

BY BILL ADDISON RESTAURANT CRITIC

Looking down at a bowl of fatteh at Nawal, a weekend pop-up in Solano Canyon near Dodger Stadium, the carefully sectioned ingredients look as if they're poised to begin whirling. The color palette isn't too far off from the spinning pinwheel that can appear on Mac screens. Almond slivers fried in ghee and stained burnt orange from spices; a mound of chopped parsley; pickled turnips dyed pink from beets and cut into batons; and thinned hummus drizzled in triangle-shaped patterns all pop atop a layer of smooth yogurt.

The disruptive crunch of fried pita lurks underneath. Fatteh — the name derives from the Arabic word "fatta," which broadly translates as "break in pieces" — is a staple Levantine dish of infinite variations built on crisped bread and yogurt flavored with garlic. Dinner versions might incorporate sliced poached chicken, or an overlay of spiced chopped or ground lamb scattered with buttery pine nuts, or cubed fried eggplant. Whole chickpeas usually tumble through, adding a creamy-grainy contrast to the scope of textures.

Street vendors and home cooks throughout the region compose vegetarian riffs on fatteh as breakfast. The one that brothers Armbay and Dotee Zakaria assemble for Nawal is the recipe they learned from their mother, who grew up in Damascus, Syria. They go easy on the garlic, and they achieve a glossy lightness to the yogurt by stirring in some of the cumin-scented broth in which they cooked the chickpeas.

Whether you take it to go or settle at one of three tables on the small fenced-in patio in the back of Dotee's home, you'll want to inhale the savory comforts of fatteh fast before the pita goes soggy.

The brothers named the pop-up after their mother. Nawal means "gift" in Arabic, and the honorific strikes me as doubly appropriate. We have few restaurants serving this kind of homey Syrian cooking in Los Angeles; the Zakarias' tiny operation has been a boon to the city since they started service in June.

Their menu is short, with five or six core items and a monthly rotation of specials. They open for orders at noon on Saturday and Sunday, though the mix of dishes leans into the traditional Syrian breakfast repertoire. Ful — the long-simmered fava beans that are a cornerstone food across southwest Asia and North Africa — comes in three forms. Two of them present whole favas, yielding but also retaining some chew, dressed with olive oil, garlic, diced tomatoes and chiles. One leans into lemon as the brightening flavor, and the other uses tahini for nutty richness.

A third expression of ful sees these same base ingredients, including the tarator (tahini sauce), blended into a fudgy puree and finished with a peppery glug of olive oil. Plenty of warmed flatbread comes alongside. Fruity green olives and labneh balls rolled in soft-tasting herbs, which are paired as a small plate, complete the spread.

There's also a wrap, folded around blistered Armenian lavash, that the brothers will readily concede was created out of things they might pull from their mother's refrigerator and throw together as a snack. Slices of soujouk, a small hunk of fried halloumi, tomatoes, pickled turnips and peppers peek out of one end. It's earthy, spicy and gone in seven or eight bites. Same goes for a rectangle of lavash baked into a cracker, spread thickly with labneh and sprinkled with za'atar, dried mint and olive oil; slices of soujouk are optional.

Makdous, oil-cured baby eggplants stuffed with walnuts and garlicky chile paste, show up as a frequent special. I've only tasted makdous before from Lebanese friends who haul back jars of it in their suitcase after a visit home. They're squishy-plush and pleasantly tannic. The Zakarias lay the makdous across sliced baguette, though I'd suggest plucking them off the bread and arranging them over the fatteh, which pushes the soothing combination into sharper, edgier territories.

Take the experience at face value — the charmingly covert system of ordering through a window cut in the wooden fence behind the house; the elegant, sun-soaked flavors punctuated with pickles and herbs — and Nawal is a straightforward pleasure, relaxed and wholesome and gently evolving.

Armbay frequently drifts out of the kitchen, delivering dishes and engaging with customers. Get him talking and he will unravel stories that illuminate the brothers' project as an uplifting declaration of identity.

Their parents assimilated into Syria, but they are Circassian by heritage. The Circassians, a group of people indigenous to the mountainous Northwest Caucasus region flanked by the Black and Caspian seas, have experienced profound displacement over the last two centuries. They were expelled from their homeland in the late 1800s after they lost a protracted war resisting subjugation by the Russian Empire.

Most Circassians resettled across the Ottoman Empire; Armbay and Dotee's parents were among those who settled in Golan Heights, a hilly tract of land in far southwestern Syria. The Circassians established villages where they were able to retain their cultural customs for nearly a century. In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Golan Heights came under Israeli military occupation. Armbay visited the area 20 years ago; his father, Muchir, drew him a detailed map of the destroyed town, called Khushnia, where both his parents had grown up. Armbay was able to follow his precise instructions — the site was frozen in time — and stand on the rubble of their family homes.

After fleeing to Damascus, Muchir and Nawal eventually immigrated to Paterson, N.J., a town designated by the United States government for a relocation program offered to Circassians in the 1970s and '80s. (Emily Efraimov, whose roving pop-up Little Dacha I've followed since she launched it in 2020, also explores her Circassian roots in her cooking and has ties to New Jersey.) In 1978, Muchir and Nawal moved their young family to Anaheim.

Woodworking has been the family trade since Syria. Armbay and Dotee built the soaring white oak panels that frame the panoramic dining-room views at 71Above in the U.S. Bank Tower downtown. Cutting a hole in a fence for their pop-up was child's play.

One Saturday in November, the brothers veered from the Syrian dishes and tackled making haliva — crimped and fried turnovers filled with herbed potato or adiga, a homemade Circassian cow's milk cheese known for taking the shape of the patterned basket in which it sets. Danny Zakaria, the cousin of Armbay and Dotee who takes orders at the windows, brought out the haliva in brown paper bags. A colleague and I ate them hot and fast, nibbling on olives and sipping strong black tea between bites.

I'm thrilled to have a local destination for comforting fatteh, but I also hope the brothers occasionally circle back to haliva and other Circassian dishes that Nawal prepared and taught them. Neither Armbay nor Dotee see their project as some sort of culinary steppingstone. They aren't chefs aiming for inroads and investors. They like their weekend project as they envisioned it: as a backyard hang, a place for sharing their wildly nuanced heritage, a way to remember. Nawal is totally unique, but it also fluently joins the lineage of ephemeral food spaces — trucks, street vendors, kitchen takeovers, one-off collaborations and creative side hustles — that keep L.A.'s character vital. What a gift.

WITH THEIR fatteh, above, brothers Dotee Zakaria, left, and Armbay Zakaria and cousin Danny Zakaria have made their mark.

Nawal

838 Solano Ave., Los Angeles,
instagram.com/nawal_losangeles

Prices: Snacks $2-$10, soujouk wrap $12, main dishes $12-$15

Details: Open noon to 4 p.m. (or until sold out) Saturday-Sunday. Street parking. No alcohol.

Recommended dishes: Fatteh, ful, makdous, weekly specials.

From ADU to Z, 21 helpful tips

HOMEOWNERS AND ARCHITECTS SHARE LESSONS THEY'VE LEARNED FROM BUILDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN L.A.

BY LISA BOONE

NOW THAT THE HOUSING CRISIS in California has made density a virtue, the ability to build accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, on single-family lots is opening up a new way of living for many Los Angeles residents. ¶ But building an ADU isn't easy, with numerous permitting delays, headaches and surprises. "ADUs are tricky and require professional expertise to strategically work through a variety of complex issues," says architect Melissa Shin, who has built several ADUs throughout Los Angeles. Common dilemmas include difficult compact floor plans, tricky site conditions, code compliance, planning requirements, sanitation and utility connections and upgrades. ¶ The Times has featured a wide range of Los Angeles residents who have built small homes on their single-family lots to accommodate disabled adult children, aging parents, children and grandchildren, tenants and the demands of working from home. ¶ Bolstered by their experiences, they shared some lessons they learned along the way, with input from the architects and designers who helped them.

1 Decide how you will use the ADU

The first thing to consider when building an ADU? Have a clear idea of your path forward, says Monica Higgins, a former real estate agent turned certified construction manager. Higgins advises homeowners to consider why they want an ADU, their current status and their one-year goals. Then it's time to figure out what you need to get from Point A to Point B.

Homeowner and designer Samantha Karim, who added a two-story ADU in 2020 for $186,000, suggests starting with a wish list. "Are you going to rent it out, use it as a home office, a guest room, yoga studio, a home for aging parents, a small home business? You need to know how you intend to use the space first before you start going down the Pinterest wormhole," says Karim.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help," adds Higgins. "I've met so many homeowners that seem to be afraid of making the decision to build an ADU because they are not familiar with the process and don't want to be taken advantage of. Work with advisors that want to educate you about the ADU process so you are empowered and not helpless, especially when something does not go according to plan."

Creating a feel-good home comes from imagining yourself in a specific living scenario, says designer Amy Shock, who designed an ADU in Echo Park and a trailer park home in Ojai. "The very best outcome is when the owner is able to imagine themselves living there and can tailor the home to their needs," says Shock. "When people imagine themselves living in the ADU, it generates a rich and productive dialogue that gets very specific. It becomes the very same design process as might be had with a larger custom home."

2 Hire an architect

Good design is invaluable. Karim says, "Pay an architect for good design and you will have less design mistakes. You wouldn't build your own house without an architect so why miss out on a good design eye with your ADU?"

3 Use the "FLAT method"

Higgins developed the FLAT method to help guide the ADU process. It goes like this:

Find out eligibility. You want to know what can be built on *your* lot. Also, major changes to California's ADU laws went into effect Jan. 1, including allowing ADUs to be taller and closer to property lines. If you were not allowed to build what you wanted before, you may be able to do so now. Revisit your proposed ADU project.

List your priorities. Unless you are living the lifestyle of the rich and famous, everything you want for your ADU may not be in your budget. Laying out your must-haves versus nice-to-haves will help you let go of what is not worth it to you.

Assess your budget. Your goal is to finish what you start. Develop a realistic project budget that accounts for pre-construction costs like architects, engineers and other consultants, as well as permitting. Plus, don't forget to include a 10% to 15% contingency. Depending on the age and condition of the home, 20% or more may be warranted. Lastly, make sure you've lined up enough funding to complete your project.

Take time to plan. If you don't have a well-thought-out plan before construction starts, your project may be doomed with unnecessary change orders. Often, change orders are a result of homeowners starting a project without a plan.

4 Make the most of your tiny floor plan

Architect Alexis Navarro advises clients to "max out the square feet of the ADU — as long as it's within your budget — as once it's built, it's done and additional space will not be cost-effective."

Higgins agrees. "Don't underestimate space planning," she says. "The layout of your ADU matters, so put function ahead of form. Avoid the mistake of focusing on making your ADU cute while totally overlooking the amount of storage or the number of outlets needed or not taking furniture sizing into consideration."

Speaking of storage, Navarro says, "There's never enough." Tricks to consider include using an access panel for storage above the ceiling; lowering ceilings in nonhabitable spaces like stairways, bathrooms and laundry rooms; and adding storage above cabinets in cathedral ceiling conditions.

Vaulted ceilings and some variety in ceiling height are great ways to make small rooms feel larger.

5 Building an ADU is like building a home

Despite its tiny footprint, constructing an ADU is "the same as building a new house, mostly sharing the same costs, timeline, and complexity," says architect John Bertram, who added a tiny Richard Neutra-inspired rec room behind his Silver Lake home. "I advise people who are exploring building an ADU that the benefits are largely in a relaxing of zoning restrictions regarding building setbacks and parking." In situations where a garage is being converted into an ADU, plenty of challenges can arise because the existing structure was never designed to be habitable, he says. "In many cases, the fact that a structure is already present does not translate into significant cost savings."

6 Pay attention to rental rules

Some homeowners were surprised to learn that their single-family home — and not just the ADU — is now considered multifamily housing and falls under the city's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO), a law that limits rent increases and restricts evictions. Such surprise may be warranted given that in Los Angeles, single-family homes are not covered by rent control. This could be problematic for homeowners who want to live in their ADU and rent out the main house.

"People should have their eyes wide open going into the build," says Karim. "I knew the ADU would be under the RSO, but I didn't realize the main house would also fall under the

MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times

A GARAGE turned ADU in Pacific Palisades, left and below; Isabelle Duvivier's design, below left, has raised windows to protect privacy.

MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

RSO. This is not ideal for our family as we can no longer short-term rent out our main house when we travel."

"My single-family home is now under both the rent stabilization ordinance (RSO) and the systematic code enforcement program (SCEP) of the city," says Mona Field, who converted her Eagle Rock garage to house her daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

Homeowners are expected to register their rental property, pay fees and report vacancies. Field says it doesn't diminish the value of being able to provide affordable housing for her family, but acknowledges that city bureaucracy can be a hassle. "It took me hours to figure out what they are talking about, why I owe them money and how to respond to their paperwork," she says.

7 Consider your neighbors

Be kind to the neighbors, says architect Isabelle Duvivier, who designed an ADU with raised windows that look out on a Chinese elm and other trees to provide privacy for the neighbors. "Design the building to minimize the height and sun loss to adjacent structures."

Since ADUs can be built where dwellings once weren't allowed, there is potentially "an outside impact on adjacent neighbors regarding privacy," says Bertram. "I strongly suggest to clients that they consider and try to honor their neighbors' privacy. This is where I think good design can have the most positive (or least negative) effect. We live in a community and so we need to get along!"

8 Utility issues cause delays

Before you start building, make sure a utility department inspector confirms there are no electrical issues related to the unit, says Chantal Arnoult, who added a two-story ADU in her Mar Vista backyard. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power utility easements are located in many backyard areas and approval can take several months and significantly delay permitting (and the start of construction).

People often don't consider the fact that new homes must sit five to six horizontal feet from power lines. "ADUs are often closer to the power lines, so you have to get approval from the LADWP, and they are overwhelmed with ADUs right now," Duvivier says.

9 Historic Preservation Ordinance Zones have unique challenges

Historic districts like South Pasadena, Hancock Park and Windsor Square can pose unique challenges for ADUs, so it's important to reach out to HPOZ (Historic Preservation Overlay Zone) staff as early as possible to make sure that any special requirements are well understood and correctly applied.

10 Order doors and windows on day one

Because of supply chain issues and material costs, windows and doors are taking many months for delivery. Additionally, Arnoult recommends ordering a mini-split for air conditioning and heating far in advance so the installation doesn't hold up the project.

11 Your property taxes will go up

Your taxes will go up significantly if you build an ADU. If this is a concern, call the city's property tax department to get an estimate. Field says her property taxes went up when her addition was reassessed but feels the increase was reasonable given how much the ADU adds to the value of her property. With property tax rates typically around 1.25% statewide, an ADU valued at $200,000 will raise your annual tax bill by $2,500.

12 Take advantage of energy efficiency incentives

Rion Nakaya, who built an ADU to house her mother in South Pasadena, recommends taking advantage of federal tax credits for residential solar energy. "Including solar panels in the build plans (with the installation *before* the walls are closed) is more efficient and accessible than adding them later," she says. "Consider electric heat-pump technology like a cooling/heating mini-split, as well as gas-free induction cooktops and ranges."

Likewise, make sure you have greywater and rainwater plans in place so that plumbing and landscaping are integrated early. "Shower and laundry greywater systems can irrigate your yard all year long, saving water and money," Nakaya says. "Calculating potential rainwater from off the rooftops, assessing your topography to prevent flooding or standing water near the structure, and directing rainwater into your plants' roots with basins, swales and French drains are all smart, low-maintenance investments."

13 Hire licensed contractors who do the work themselves

We've profiled a lot of glamorous garage conversions with happy endings, but there are nightmares too. To avoid construction pitfalls, use licensed local contractors with solid references who do the work themselves and don't use unlicensed subcontractors.

Architect Bertram sums it up: "There is nothing better than a good contractor and nothing worse than a bad one!"

Other tips include:

> Get the contact information of the city inspector assigned to your project.

> Attend city inspections and take notes.

> Get written timelines weekly on work to be done.

> Check the roof structure to avoid leaks during the first rainfall. If you have concerns about the roof during construction, contact the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety and ask for an inspection. If you want to take it a step further, the National Roof Certification and Inspection Assn. recommends hiring a licensed roof inspector, who will issue a detailed written report for a fee.

14 Invest in an ADU feasibility study

Higgins says this study, which typically costs between $5,000 and $7,000, "can help avoid pitfalls as it will uncover unknown issues, like encumbrances, zoning issues, easements or setbacks that could negatively impact your project." It allows information gathering and major changes to be discussed with no project commitment, she adds, and "narrows the alternatives, provides floor plan recommendations and a preliminary budget, which enable you to make a more informed decision as to how best to proceed."

15 Try to protect mature trees

Protect mature trees and be careful when digging around their roots, says Duvivier. "Trees add value to the property, lower cooling costs, provide privacy, slow and help absorb rainwater, provide habitat for birds and butterflies and help with mental health."

If no mature trees exist, leave room in the side or rear yards for young trees. Plant deciduous trees on the south side of the structure and evergreen on the north. Plant California natives when you can and try not to overpave the property with concrete, which contributes to a "heat island" effect in Los Angeles where extreme heat is considered a public health hazard. During construction, it helps if you don't pile material under the tree canopy.

16 Design with the sun in mind

Consider the orientation of the sun (especially the south orientation in Southern California) to decrease the use of air conditioning and furnaces, advises Navarro. "Design with the sun in mind," says Duvivier. Large windows in large rooms facing south will absorb the sun's heat and keep rooms warm in the winter, while the addition of a large overhang will help keep rooms cool in the summer. An abundance of natural light is essential for making small spaces feel larger. Navarro recommends using skylights or dome sun tunnels to admit light inside and maximizing window sizes for more light.

17 Costs will increase

People should expect that original cost estimates will increase, Field says. "No matter how carefully you plan, there is always some glitch that is going to cost more than you anticipated." Be sure you have enough money for the unexpected.

"I thought we could do it for $100,000," Nicole Fitzgerald says of the 290-square-foot ADU she and husband Rick Steil built behind their Pacific Palisades home. "But once we laid out everything we wanted, it was clear it wasn't going to work. Utilities were a big expense. They had to trench down the driveway to get to the garage." When the ADU was finished in August 2021, after eight months, the couple ended up paying more than twice what they anticipated — $250,000.

18 Consider more density

In zones that allow for multiple residences, such as R-3, it may be better for homeowners to add an extra unit instead of an ADU, says Novarro. "Instead of being a single-family residence with an ADU, it will be a duplex," says Navarro. "This seems to be appraised at a higher value, which will give the owner more equity."

19 Include outdoor living space

If the ADU will be used primarily as a rental property, consider providing some outdoor private space. Navarro enclosed the entrance to the ADU on his three-unit property in East Los Angeles to create a private outdoor space for his tenants.

20 Permits can take months

Clearances for building permit applications — impacting everything from sanitation to zoning regulations — can slow things down, says Shin. "Those take longer and some have to be done in person. That's just for the city of L.A.," says Shin. "L.A. County has backlogs of up to six months. It can take you a year to get through plan check for a simple ADU."

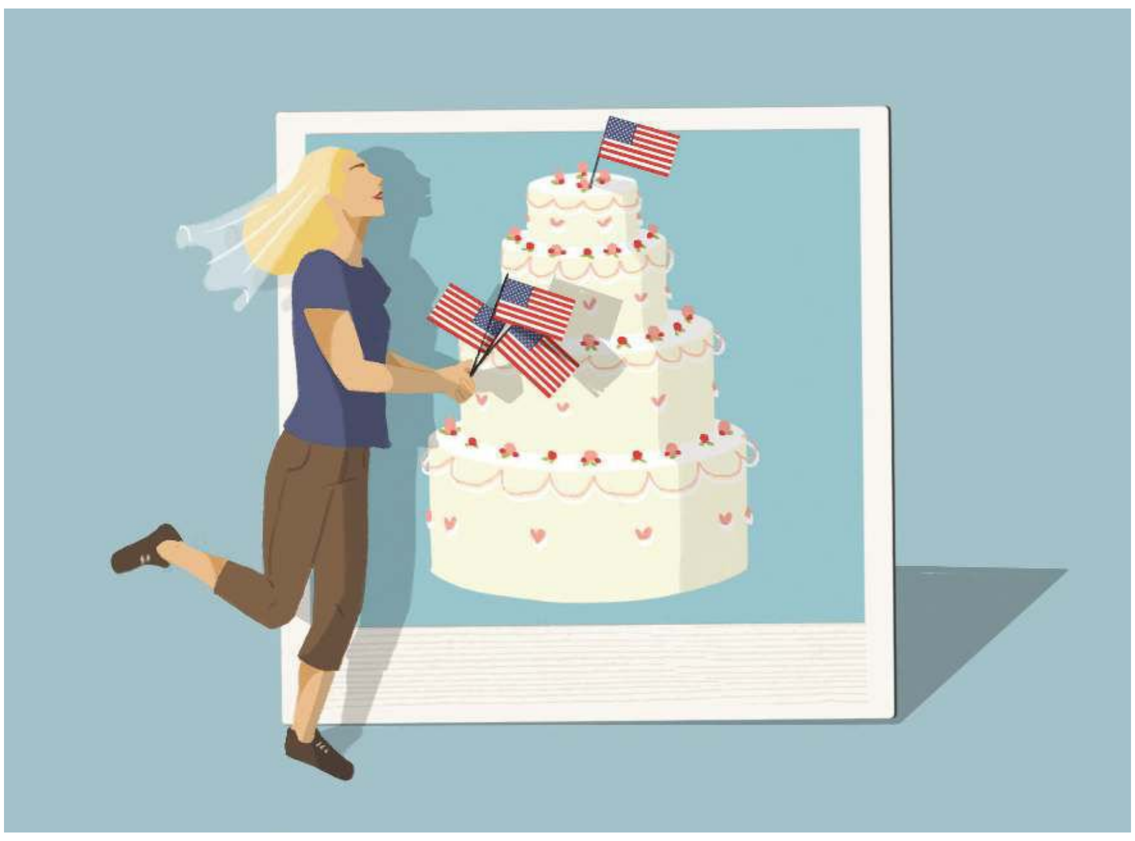
21 Be patient

ADUs are a long-term investment. "They don't return on that investment for several years but overall they add significant value to a property if done correctly and legally," Navarro says.

RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A FAMILY uses its Atwater ADU as an office, above. Left, a Murphy bed can provide flexibility and better use of space.



Giulia Neri For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

From sham to supportive spouse

MY GREEN-CARD WEDDING FLOWERED INTO A MARRIAGE

BY VIVI STUTZ

I CAME TO Los Angeles as a foreign student from Germany to study acting, and I wanted to stay a little longer to dodge bad weather at home and add acting credits to my résumé. I didn't have much in the way of funds, no work permit, and my command of English was spotty at the time. I worked in a Venice Beach hostel as a cleaner for room and no board, and I studied the English vocabulary on my bus rides to the Stella Adler Academy of Acting & Theatre in Hollywood. I mostly lived off peanuts, literally.

I needed a green card.

I had a dream that I would get married in August. I told my mother back home on the phone. "Where's the man going to come from?" I said. Same-sex marriage wasn't in the cards yet, and the man I was madly in love with was on hiatus from our relationship.

"You'll see," she snickered.

I began interviewing eligible men in the clubs on Sunset Boulevard or in Venice Beach, and the offers ranged from "Pay me $5,000 and I'll do it" to "I never had a girlfriend, but I want one" to "You don't mind the drugs, do you?"

"This isn't going to work out," I told my mother. I wanted a green card and a bit of romance, not to commit a crime while being tied to a psychopath for two years. I pinched pennies to see an immigration lawyer. Every time I got in my beat-up car to sign the fishy contract, my car broke down, and I had to start saving all over again.

I had a dream that I was going to be in a relationship with a man who gave me a kitten even though he didn't like cats.

A letter arrived from a friend in Australia. She was spending a year as a foreign student at UCLA when I visited her and fell in love with Southern California. She had broken up with her college boyfriend, and he was headed back home to L.A.

I remembered him. He was a nice guy who drew me maps for bus rides and was patient with my lack of English. She introduced him the first day I stepped off the plane at Los Angeles International Airport. He wanted to live in Germany for two years. Perhaps I could help him?

I sure could.

He agreed to marry me and live together for the required two years of wedded bliss. We'd head to Germany soon after.

The night before the not-really wedding, I got cold feet and almost changed my mind.

"We won't be married forever," my not-really groom reassured me.

We were married at City Hall in Van Nuys, dressed up as punks with fetish bridesmaids to mock the ordeal. Afterward, we barbecued in Topanga State Park with friends to celebrate that I could stay.

We moved into a studio in the Fairfax District and furnished it with finds off the street, added my name to his bank account because his account had funds and mine didn't, and took lots of pictures of good times together across Southern California to show during the green card interview.

My not-really husband gave me a kitten. He didn't like cats until they changed his mind.

Acting school didn't yield a living wage. My not-really husband offered encouragement and money, so I could pursue my Californian passions and start a personal training business in Silver Lake.

His art degree from UCLA didn't yield a living wage either, so I supported him through university by finding creative solutions on a budget and moving us from Fairfax to Long Beach and back to Silver Lake until he became a teacher.

We never shared a last name.

After a decade of not-really being married, I got angry when he called me his wife. I hadn't gotten a ring, so he gave me one.

I began fantasizing about going to college as well. Attending university was out of reach in Germany because my grades had been poor, and by then, I was well into my 30s and "too old" to gain admission to higher education by German standards.

My not-really husband helped me learn English so I could read textbooks. He says I taught myself, but his unyielding support opened doors in my mind that had been shut. He tutored me, and I received my first A in math. I followed up with a master's degree in counseling psychology, and he tutored me in statistics. He supported me with his shiny new wages so I could attend school, work part-time and still fly home to see my aging parents.

My parents died shortly before the pandemic, and I lost my personal training business to the COVID-19 shutdowns.

The time had come to make good on the agreement that my not-really husband could live in Germany for two years. We shipped our belongings and five pets to my mother's home in a small German town during the shutdown. We decided to live as expat digital nomads, and I embarked on completing a telehealth internship as a mental health therapist.

I never said, "I do." He never proposed.

We haven't been married forever, but we celebrated our 23rd anniversary last summer. I'm starting to think this might turn into my forever. The idea is giving me cold feet. Official commitment is just so traditional even if you love someone. Tradition isn't what I was looking for when I boarded that fateful first flight to Los Angeles, but I'd go for serendipity anytime.

> *The author is an EMDR therapist and a writer of fiction and nonfiction. She is currently a digital nomad who divides her time between Los Angeles and Germany. Her website is vivistutz.com.*

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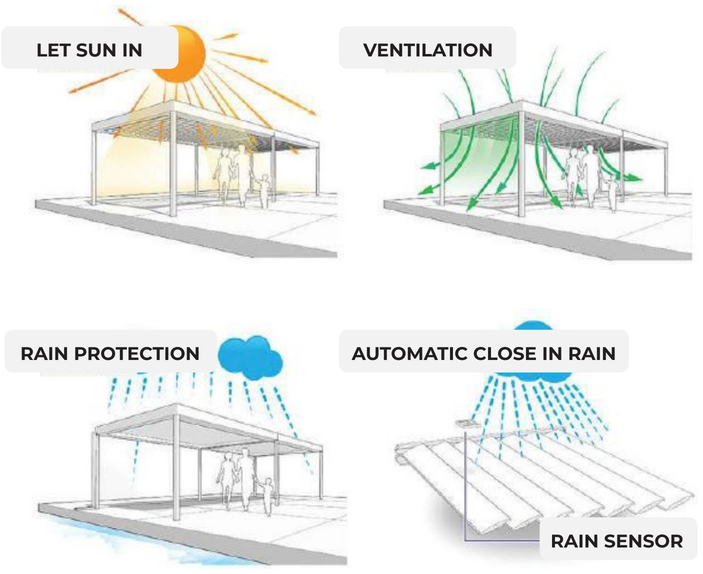

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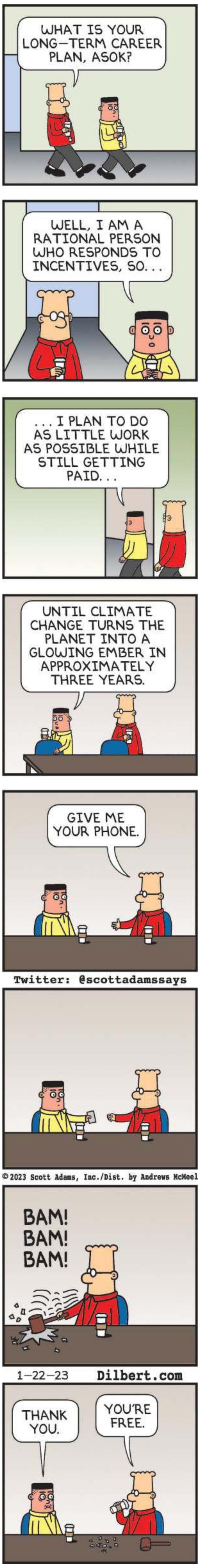
SUNDAY COMICS

DILBERT
By Scott Adams


WHAT IS YOUR LONG—TERM CAREER PLAN, ASOK?
WELL, I AM A RATIONAL PERSON WHO RESPONDS TO INCENTIVES, SO. . .
. . . I PLAN TO DO AS LITTLE WORK AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL GETTING PAID. . .
UNTIL CLIMATE CHANGE TURNS THE PLANET INTO A GLOWING EMBER IN APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS.
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE.
BAM! BAM! BAM!
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE FREE.

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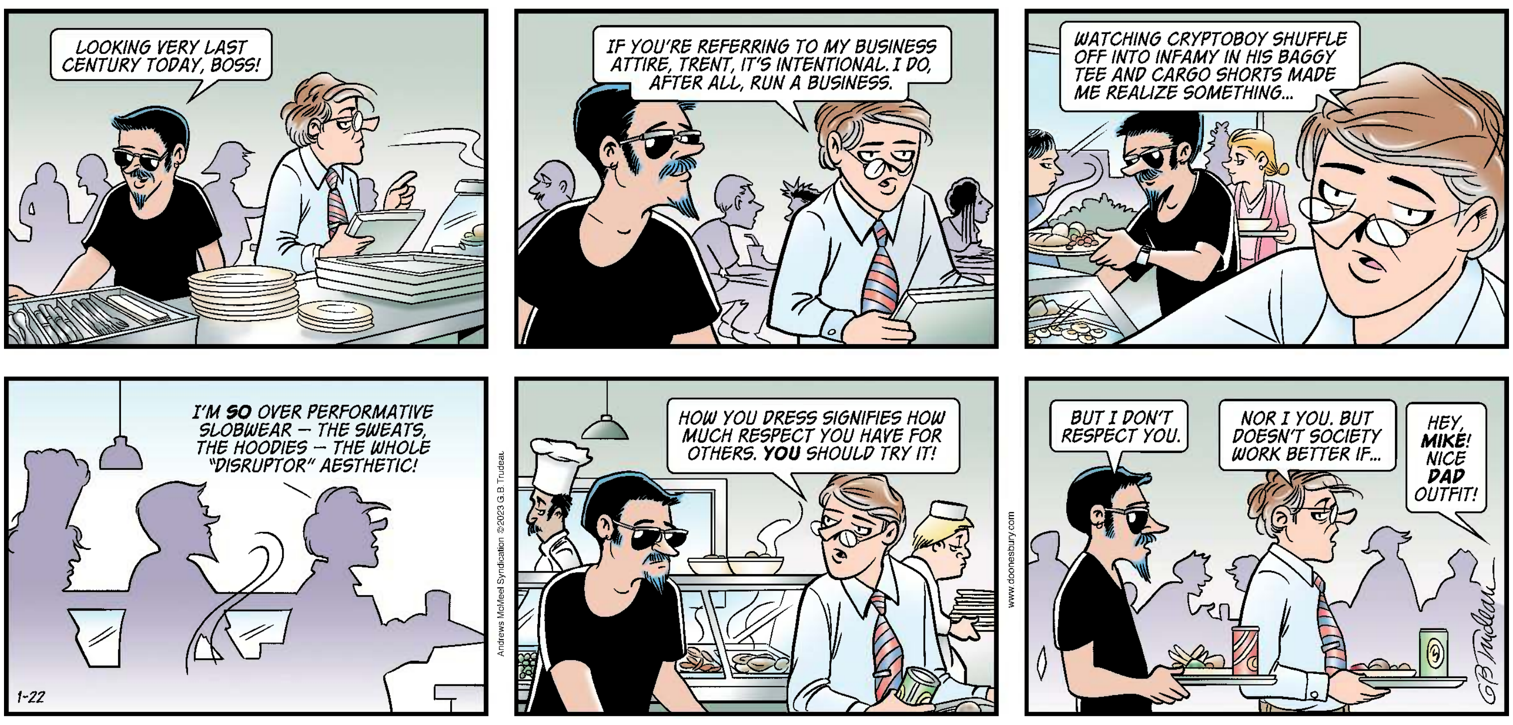
1–22–23 Dilbert.com

DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau


LOOKING VERY LAST CENTURY TODAY, BOSS!
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO MY BUSINESS ATTIRE, TRENT, IT'S INTENTIONAL. I DO, AFTER ALL, RUN A BUSINESS.
WATCHING CRYPTOBOY SHUFFLE OFF INTO INFAMY IN HIS BAGGY TEE AND CARGO SHORTS MADE ME REALIZE SOMETHING...
I'M SO OVER PERFORMATIVE SLOBWEAR — THE SWEATS, THE HOODIES — THE WHOLE "DISRUPTOR" AESTHETIC!
1-22
HOW YOU DRESS SIGNIFIES HOW MUCH RESPECT YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS. YOU SHOULD TRY IT!
BUT I DON'T RESPECT YOU.
NOR I YOU. BUT DOESN'T SOCIETY WORK BETTER IF...
HEY, MIKE! NICE DAD OUTFIT!
GB Trudeau

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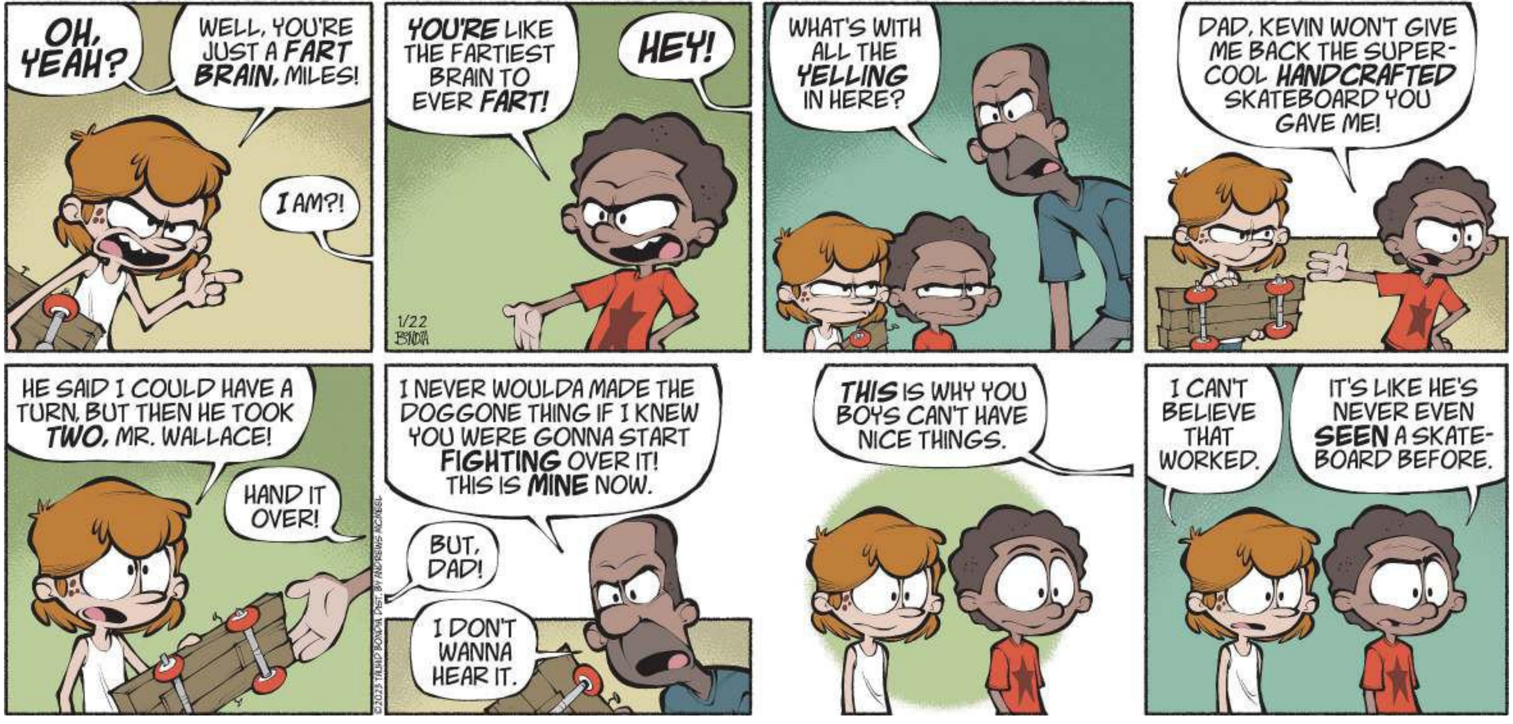
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


OH, YEAH?
WELL, YOU'RE JUST A FART BRAIN, MILES!
I AM?!
YOU'RE LIKE THE FARTIEST BRAIN TO EVER FART!
HEY!
1/22 BONDIA
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE YELLING IN HERE?
DAD, KEVIN WON'T GIVE ME BACK THE SUPER-COOL HANDCRAFTED SKATEBOARD YOU GAVE ME!
HE SAID I COULD HAVE A TURN, BUT THEN HE TOOK TWO, MR. WALLACE!
HAND IT OVER!
I NEVER WOULDA MADE THE DOGGONE THING IF I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA START FIGHTING OVER IT! THIS IS MINE NOW.
BUT, DAD!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT.
THIS IS WHY YOU BOYS CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED.
IT'S LIKE HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN A SKATE-BOARD BEFORE.

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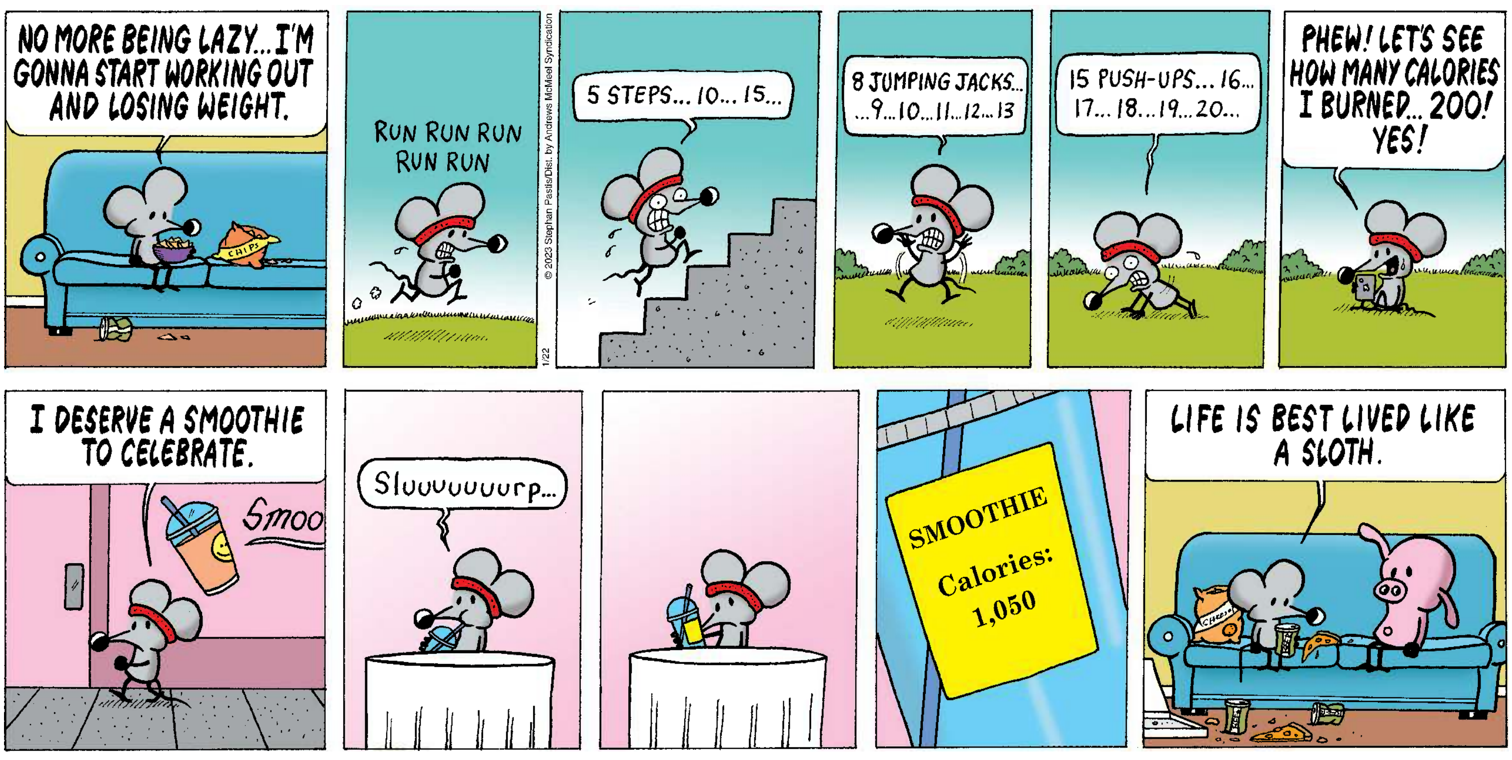
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


NO MORE BEING LAZY...I'M GONNA START WORKING OUT AND LOSING WEIGHT.
CHIPS
RUN RUN RUN RUN RUN
1/22
5 STEPS... 10... 15...
8 JUMPING JACKS... ...9...10...11...12...13
15 PUSH-UPS... 16... 17... 18...19...20...
PHEW! LET'S SEE HOW MANY CALORIES I BURNED... 200! YES!
I DESERVE A SMOOTHIE TO CELEBRATE.
Smoo
Sluuuuuuurp...
SMOOTHIE
Calories: 1,050
LIFE IS BEST LIVED LIKE A SLOTH.
CHEESE

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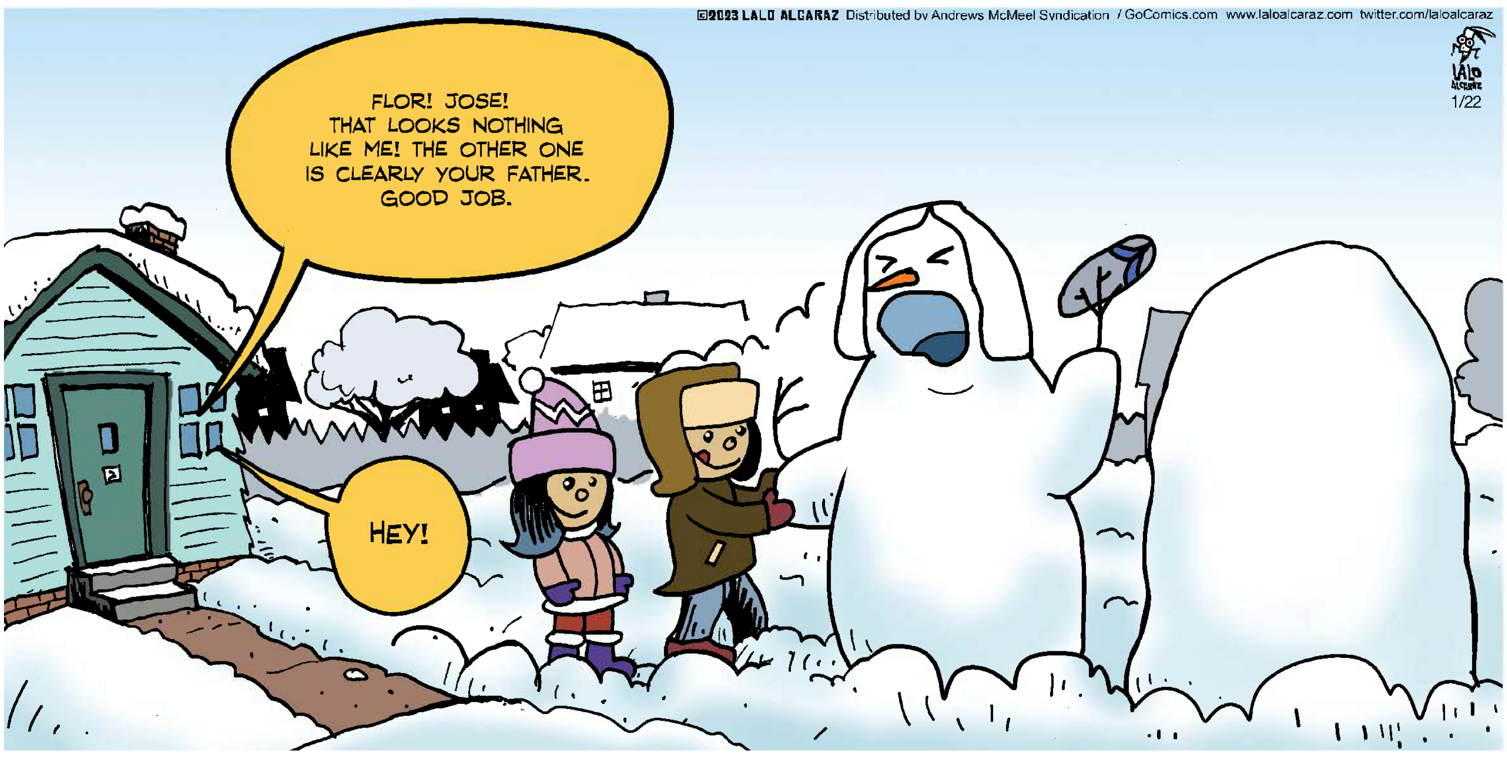
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


FLOR! JOSE! THAT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE ME! THE OTHER ONE IS CLEARLY YOUR FATHER. GOOD JOB.
HEY!
LALO ALCARAZ
1/22

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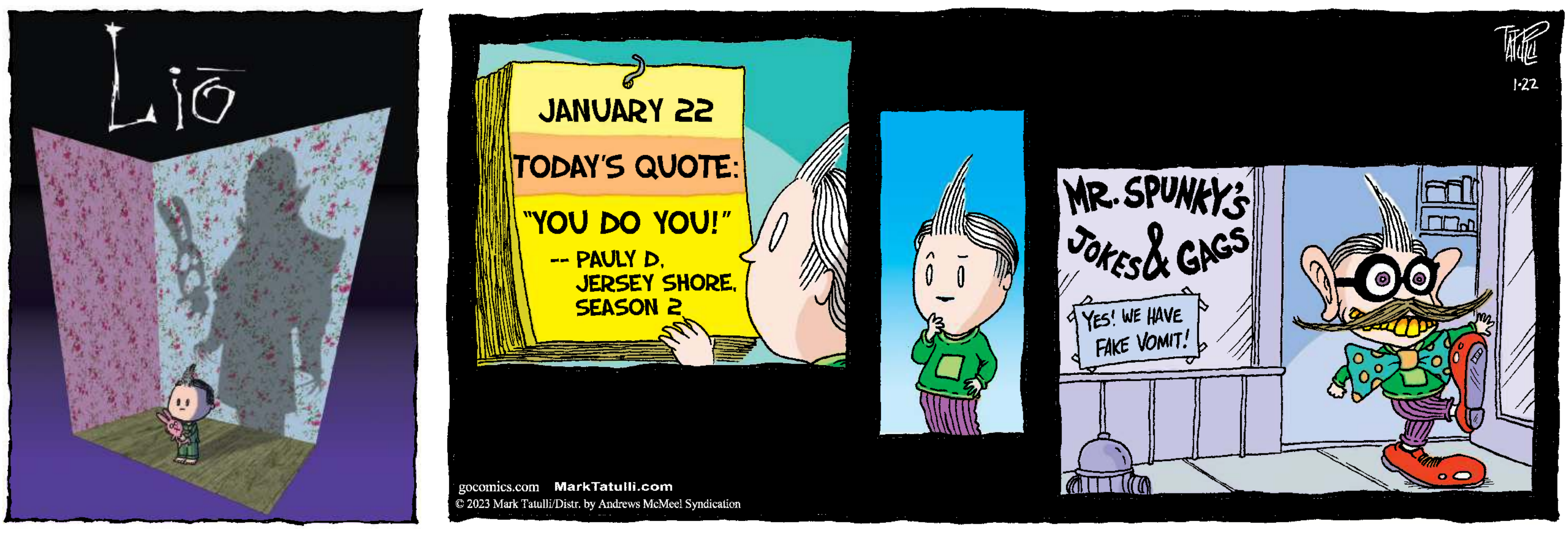
Lio
JANUARY 22
TODAY'S QUOTE:
"YOU DO YOU!"
-- PAULY D, JERSEY SHORE, SEASON 2
MR. SPUNKY'S JOKES & GAGS
YES! WE HAVE FAKE VOMIT!
TATULLI
1·22

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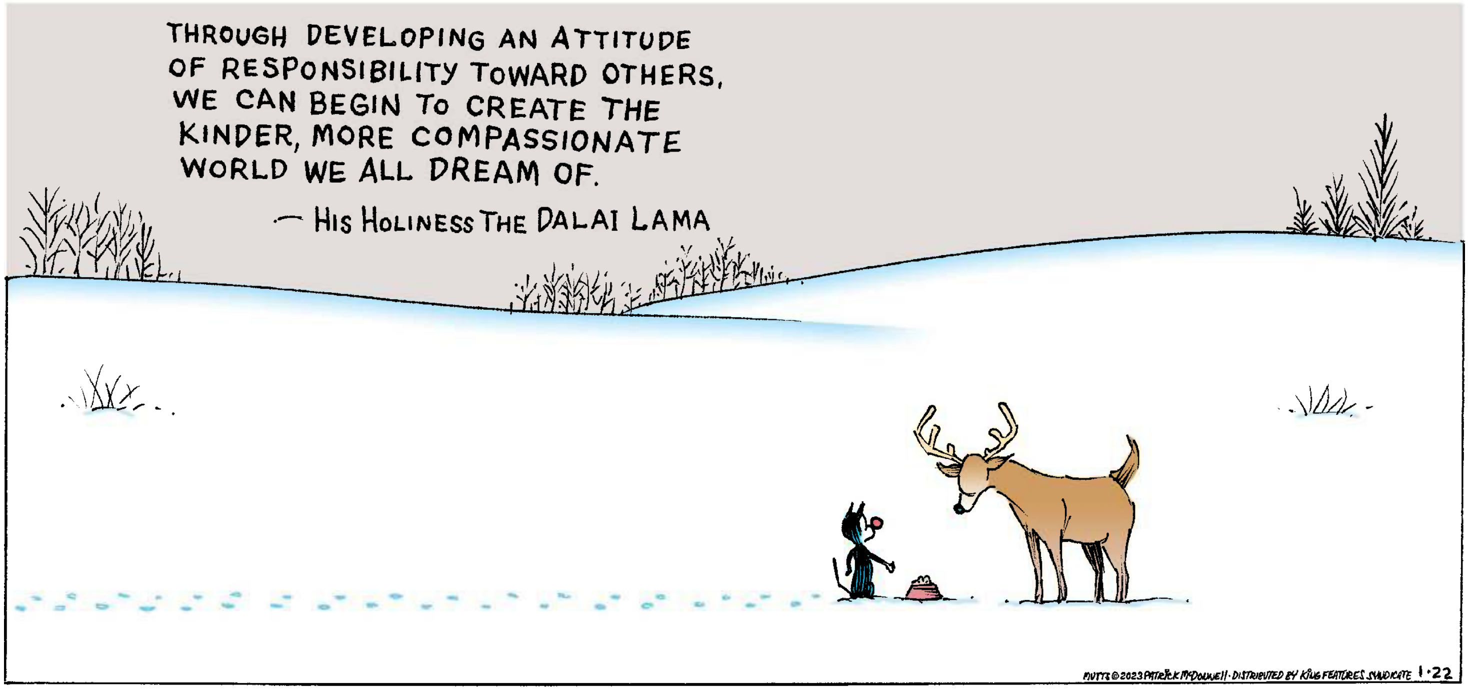
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


THROUGH DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD OTHERS, WE CAN BEGIN TO CREATE THE KINDER, MORE COMPASSIONATE WORLD WE ALL DREAM OF.
— HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA
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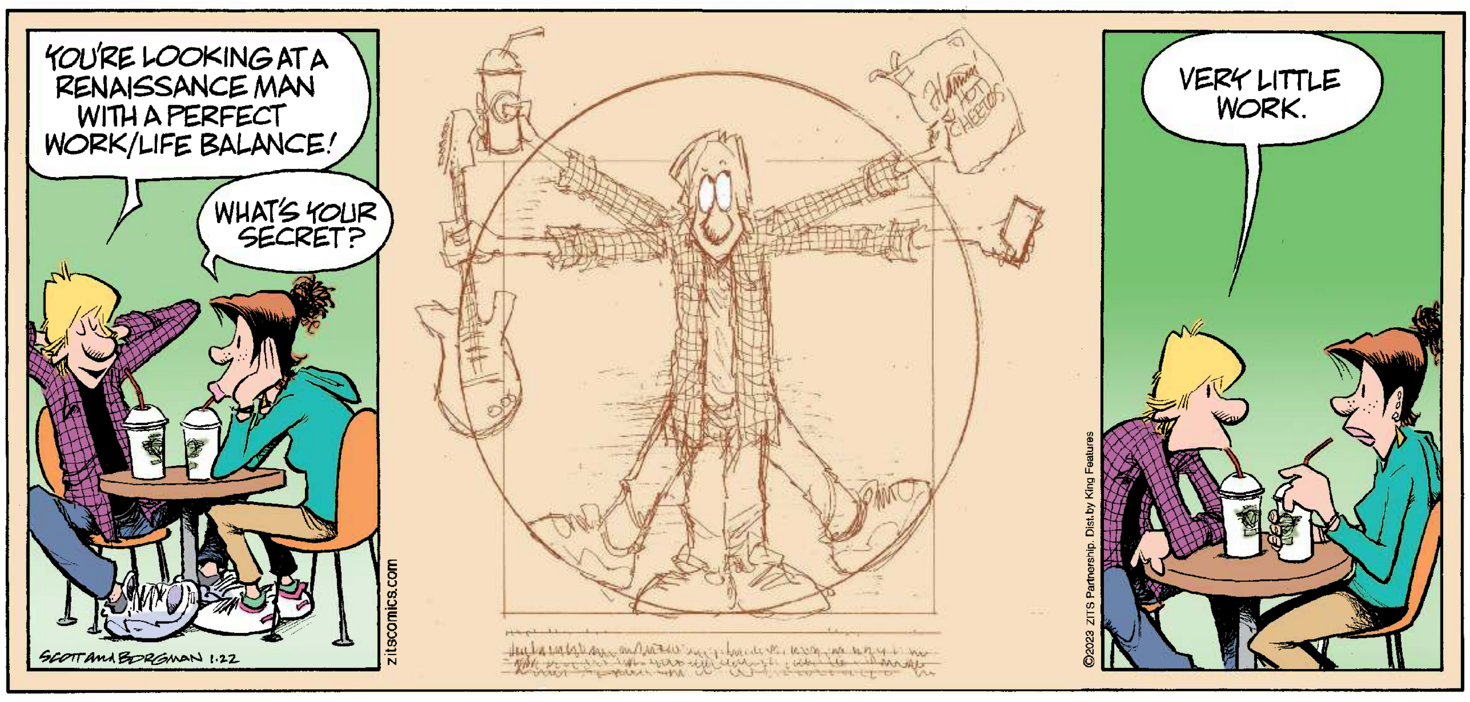
ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


YOU'RE LOOKING AT A RENAISSANCE MAN WITH A PERFECT WORK/LIFE BALANCE!
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 1.22
zitscomics.com
HOT CHEETOS
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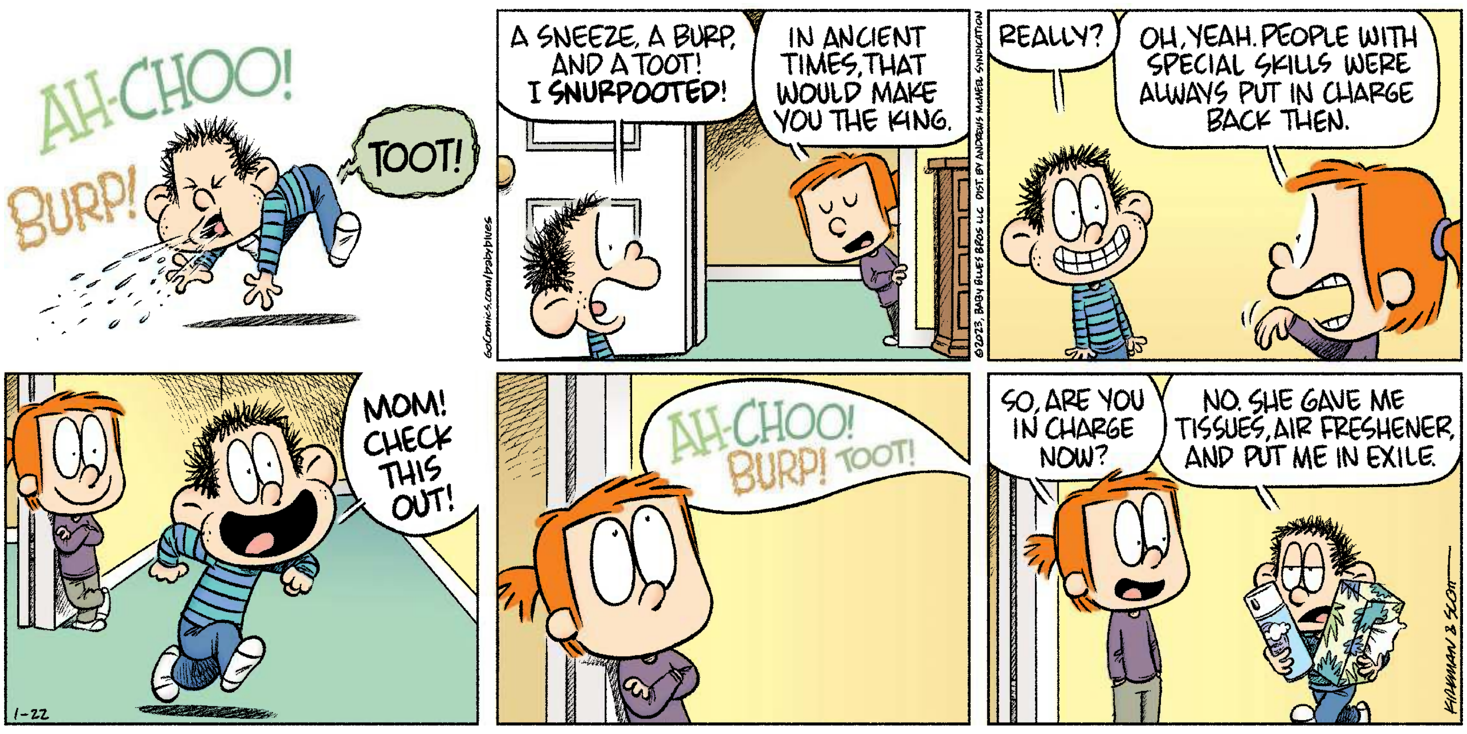
VERY LITTLE WORK.

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


AH-CHOO!
BURP!
TOOT!
GoComics.com/babyblues
A SNEEZE, A BURP, AND A TOOT! I SNURPOOTED!
IN ANCIENT TIMES, THAT WOULD MAKE YOU THE KING.
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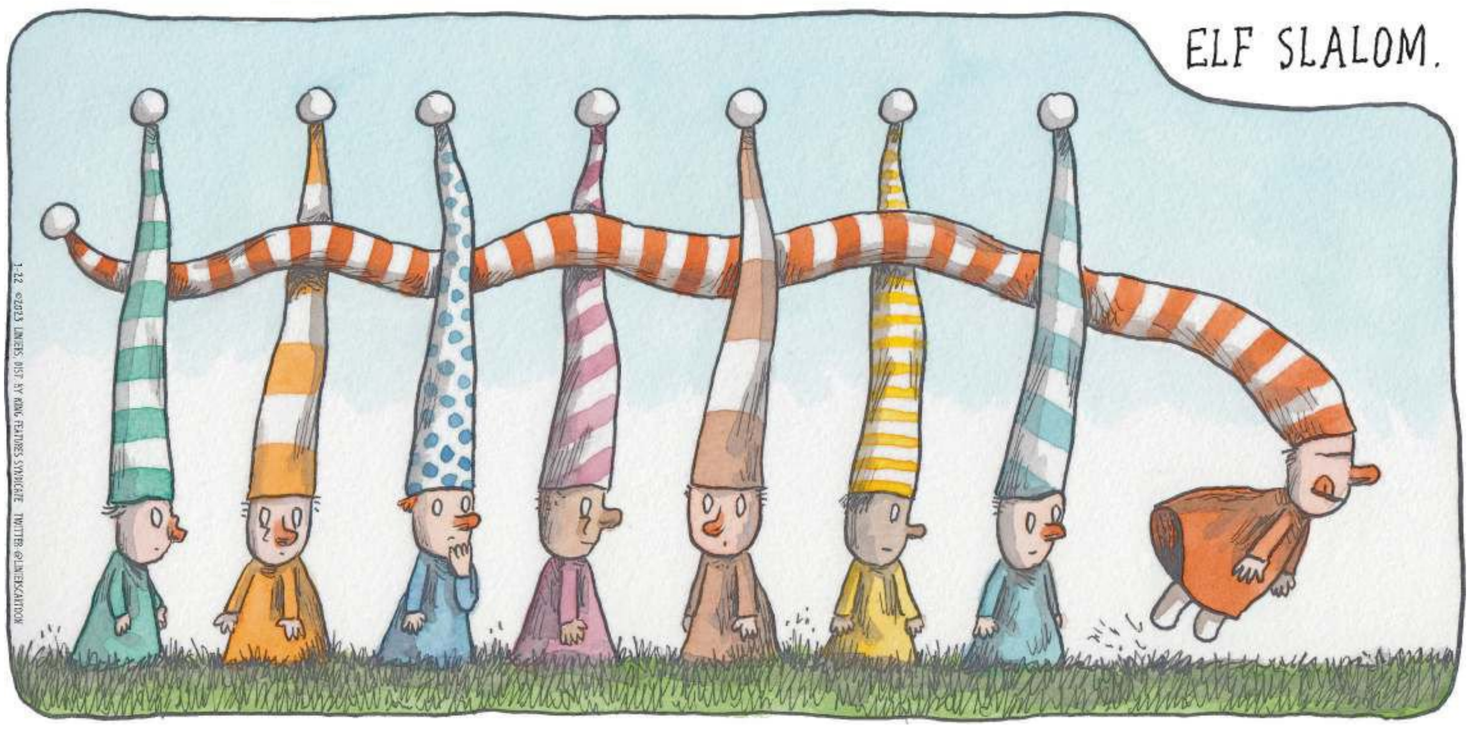
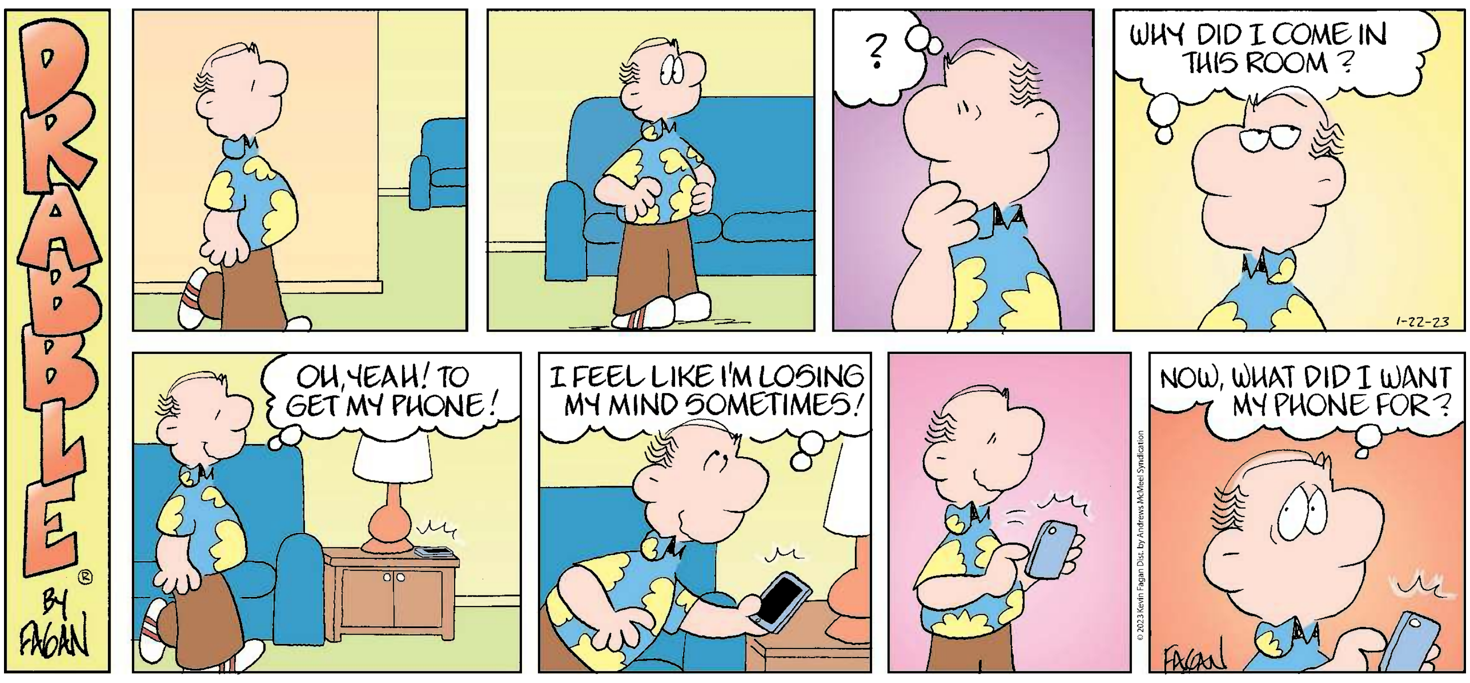
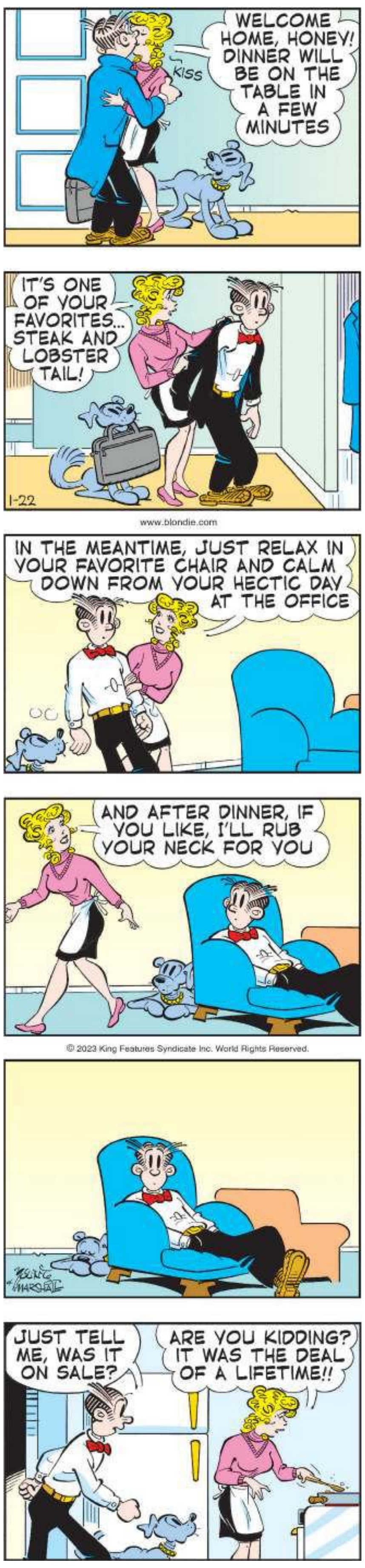
REALLY?
OH, YEAH. PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL SKILLS WERE ALWAYS PUT IN CHARGE BACK THEN.
1-22
MOM! CHECK THIS OUT!
AH-CHOO! BURP! TOOT!
SO, ARE YOU IN CHARGE NOW?
NO. SHE GAVE ME TISSUES, AIR FRESHENER, AND PUT ME IN EXILE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MACANUDO By Liniers

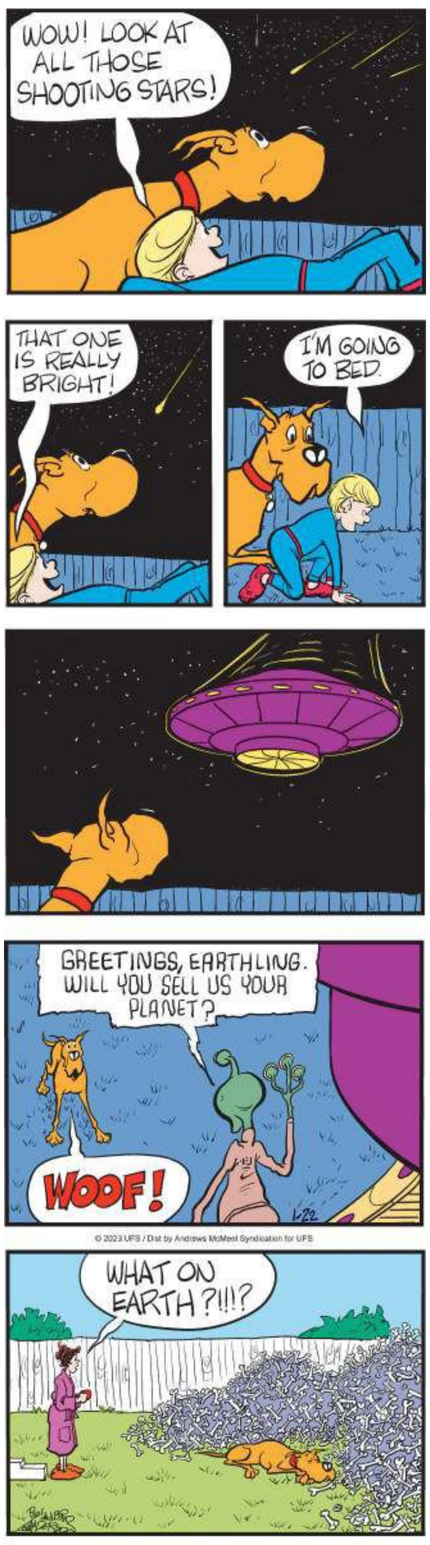



DRABBLE® BY FAGAN
WHY DID I COME IN THIS ROOM?
1-22-23
OH, YEAH! TO GET MY PHONE!
I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND SOMETIMES!
© 2023 Kevin Fagan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
NOW, WHAT DID I WANT MY PHONE FOR?
FAGAN

BLONDIE
By Dean Young & John Marshall


WELCOME HOME, HONEY! DINNER WILL BE ON THE TABLE IN A FEW MINUTES
KISS
IT'S ONE OF YOUR FAVORITES... STEAK AND LOBSTER TAIL!
1-22
www.blondie.com
IN THE MEANTIME, JUST RELAX IN YOUR FAVORITE CHAIR AND CALM DOWN FROM YOUR HECTIC DAY AT THE OFFICE
AND AFTER DINNER, IF YOU LIKE, I'LL RUB YOUR NECK FOR YOU
© 2023 King Features Syndicate Inc. World Rights Reserved.
YOUNG & MARSHALL
JUST TELL ME, WAS IT ON SALE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT WAS THE DEAL OF A LIFETIME!!

MARMADUKE
By Brad & Paul Anderson


WOW! LOOK AT ALL THOSE SHOOTING STARS!
THAT ONE IS REALLY BRIGHT!
I'M GOING TO BED.
GREETINGS, EARTHLING. WILL YOU SELL US YOUR PLANET?
WOOF!
1-22
© 2023 UFS / Dist by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS
WHAT ON EARTH?!!!?

DOG GONE FUNNY

KALLI STOEVE HAS **FIG**, A PERSISTENT LITTLE DOG. ONE DAY THEY HEARD '**BANG**,' '**THUMP**,' '**CRASH**' AND FOUND FIG BOUNCING INTO WALLS WITH HER HEAD STUCK IN DAD'S POPCORN **BAG**. KALLI TOOK THE BAG OFF AND FIG'S HEAD WENT RIGHT BACK IN, TRYING TO GET **EVERY LAST CRUMB**.

HOROSCOPE

HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): It's liberating to live with less, but it also takes courage. You have to trust that you'll have enough and know yourself so well that you can tell what you really will and won't use.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your first idea probably isn't going to be the best you can come up with. It just has to be good enough to keep you revisiting.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You'll have no trouble capturing and holding attention. You'll communicate your vision and be understood on multiple levels.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You will play with expectations. It's a way to make sure not to want too many or the wrong things, and to keep people from expecting the wrong things from you too.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't need a rescue, but there are those who want to be there for you anyway. Be choosy about what assistance you accept.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be busy fulfilling requirements of the world. Instead of longing for the free days to do what you want, plan and structure your life so this can really happen.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): For your contributions you'll be compensated in many ways that matter, though it's the financial way that allows you to keep going.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Many useful creations started in someone's garage. Do you have the luxury of using such a space? Think of what you might start there. or of how you could arrange to have the space to create.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Anyone can wish for a better life, but you prefer to work for it instead. Today's big question — where to start? Don't skip the research stage.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're on someone's mind. Is it a coincidence or is it possible that the energy they send you is somehow reaching and lifting you? You're lighter and brighter.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The line between indulging and overindulging is so precarious now that you're better off doing neither. Take it easy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You are ready to pay for what you use, need and enjoy. But it hurts to pay for what you don't need. Some feel entitled to make a cash grab. You're richer when you stay far away from them.

Today's birthday (Jan. 22): You make plans to seek awe. It comes to you from the realm of art, nature, technology, sports and interpersonal experience. It's as though the more awe you feel, the more awesome experiences you attract. More highlights: a project that earns big, a design change that helps your life run better. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 28, 32, 39.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

Play It Again

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

BY ALAN MASSENGILL & DOUG PETERSON

ACROSS

1 Pesters online, in a way
6 Dorothy Gale's dog
10 Wore
15 Three-time WNBA MVP Leslie
19 Divvy up
20 Husband of Psyche
21 "Just tell me"
22 Iraq neighbor
23 Lizzo "remake" of the Beatles' "I Feel Fine"?
25 Dua Lipa "remake" of Katrina and the Waves' "Walking on Sunshine"?
27 Snookums
28 Defiant admission of dishonesty
30 Thirsts (for)
31 Least refined
33 Early console letters
34 Accessory for Mr. Monopoly
35 Taylor Swift "remake" of the Eagles' "Take It Easy"?
41 "— have to do"
42 "Creed" director Coogler
43 Wimbledon surface
48 Petting zoo horse
49 LAX regulator
51 Find repugnant
54 Folder's loss
55 Doo-wop syllable
56 To no avail
58 Get-up-and-go
59 Descendant
60 "Will you let me?"
61 Marvin Gaye "remake" of Glenn Miller's "In the Mood"?
64 Direct means of access
67 Slow-cooked courses
69 Anthem played at Blue Jays games
70 Steve Miller Band "remake" of Screamin' Jay Hawkins' "I Put a Spell on You"?
72 Conditional release
74 "Rumble in the Jungle" locale
75 Trifling amount
76 Cowhand's seat
77 Media-regulating gp.
80 One-named supermodel
81 Most efficient
84 — socket
85 Corn holder
86 Final request
88 Pet food brand
90 Allowing a draft
91 Jay-Z/Alicia Keys "remake" of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York"?
97 Dicey
101 Connections
102 Paste-up pieces
103 Cola originally named Brad's Drink
104 Dips for Easter
107 Keeps adding to, as mashed potatoes
111 Ed Sheeran "remake" of the Rays' "Silhouettes"?
113 Lady Gaga "remake" of the J. Geils Band's "Love Stinks"?
115 Actor Stonestreet
116 Yankee manager before Girardi
117 Big name in footwear
118 Resolves a tense problem, say
119 Ahi, for one
120 Irritable
121 Knitter's ball
122 Station

DOWN

1 Hangs loosely
2 Snowbank creator
3 Banana Boat After Sun Gel ingredient
4 Using contemporary styles
5 Work in a park, perhaps
6 Snickered
7 Vein contents
8 "Anna Karenina" novelist
9 Scandinavian capital
10 Jewish campus group
11 AARP concern
12 Plunge
13 "Metamorphoses" poet
14 — worth
15 Brightened
16 Like Oscar Wilde
17 With 45-Down, West Coast racing venue
18 Teen sensation, perhaps
24 Fries, e.g.
26 As a companion
29 Harebrained
32 Maroon
34 Affectedly dainty
35 Litter cries
36 Brief "Then again ... "
37 Wing support
38 Suffragist Elizabeth — Stanton
39 Faucet problems
40 Cries of dismay
44 Wisconsin city between Milwaukee and Chicago
45 See 17-Down
46 Tolerated
47 Medicinal shrub
49 Flora partner
50 Had a bug
52 Gush forth
53 Place for a pawdicure
56 Word with mail or box
57 Iberian capital
59 No longer novel
60 Dry red wine
61 Actress Thompson
62 Motown Records founder Berry
63 Maître's milieu
64 Brownish green
65 First president with a Twitter account
66 Pares
68 Accurate
71 Tokyo-based brewery
73 "— Fideles"
76 ESPN datum
77 Vanuatu neighbor
78 Family circle
79 Twine
81 Guacamole ingredient
82 Predict-ability?
83 Spacek of "Bloodline"
85 1941 Bogart role
87 Group pic
89 Italian dessert wine
92 Struggles
93 Provides (with)
94 "Julie & Julia" writer/director
95 Froyo topping
96 Made bubbles
97 In a huff
98 1960s jacket style
99 Nadal's birthplace
100 Pet adoption org.
104 — effort
105 Sandwich with tzatziki sauce
106 Site for a bidding war
108 Salon sound
109 Bi- quadrupled
110 Place for a clutch
112 Non-Rx
114 Musical arcade game, for short

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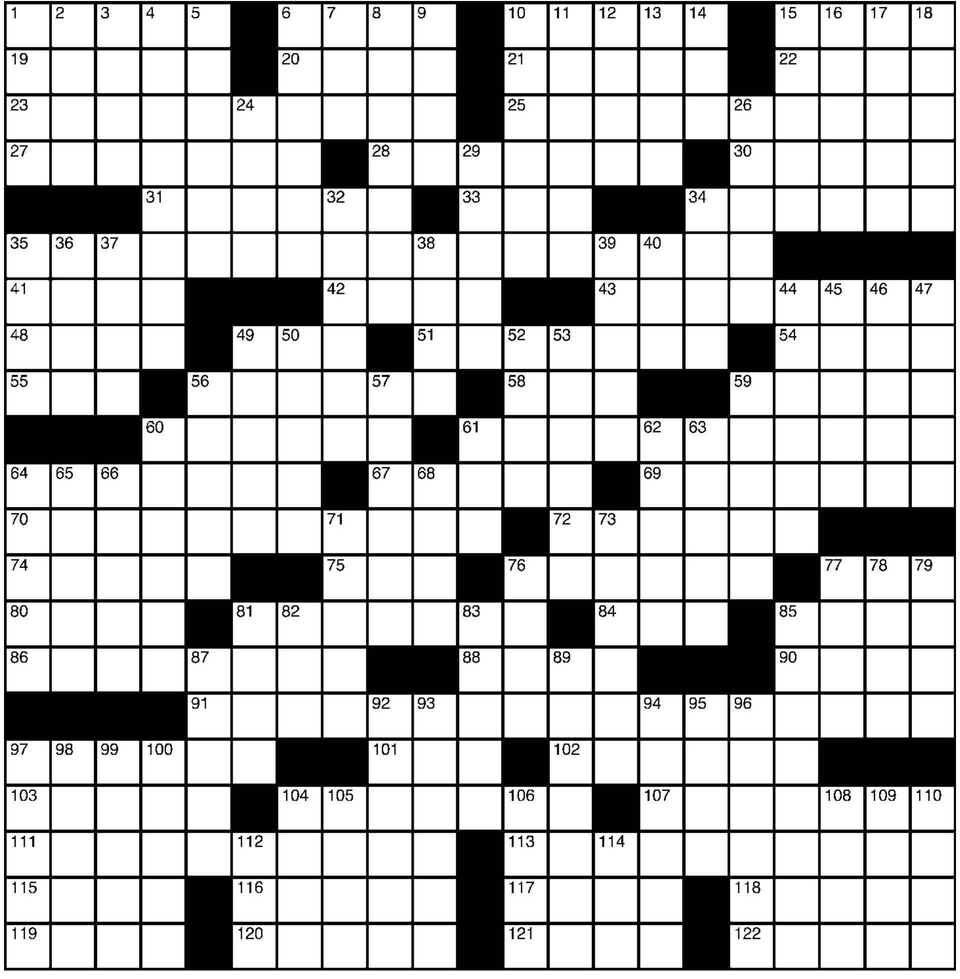
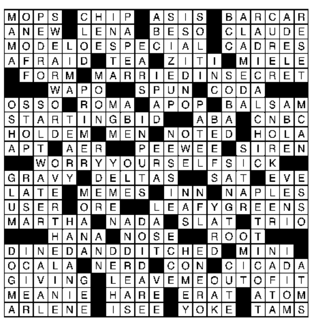


Last week's solution:
"We're Done Here"



M	O	P	S	■	C	H	I	P	■	A	S	I	S	■	B	A	R	C	A	R
A	N	E	W	■	L	E	N	A	■	B	E	S	O	■	C	L	A	U	D	E
M	O	D	E	L	O	E	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	■	C	A	D	R	E	S
A	F	R	A	I	D	■	T	E	A	■	Z	I	T	I	■	M	I	E	L	E
■	F	O	R	M	■	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	I	N	S	E	C	R	E	T
■	■	■	W	A	P	O	■	■	S	P	U	N	■	C	O	D	A	■	■	■
O	S	S	O	■	R	O	M	A	■	A	P	O	P	■	B	A	L	S	A	M
S	T	A	R	T	I	N	G	B	I	D	■	■	A	B	A	■	C	N	B	C
H	O	L	D	E	M	■	M	E	N	■	N	O	T	E	D	■	H	O	L	A
A	P	T	■	A	E	R	■	■	P	E	E	W	E	E	■	S	I	R	E	N
■	■	W	O	R	R	Y	Y	O	U	R	S	E	L	F	S	I	C	K	■	■
G	R	A	V	Y	■	D	E	L	T	A	S	■	■	S	A	T	■	E	V	E
L	A	T	E	■	M	E	M	E	S	■	I	N	N	■	N	A	P	L	E	S
U	S	E	R	■	O	R	E	■	■	L	E	A	F	Y	G	R	E	E	N	S
M	A	R	T	H	A	■	N	A	D	A	■	S	L	A	T	■	T	R	I	O
■	■	■	H	A	N	A	■	N	O	S	E	■	■	R	O	O	T	■	■	■
D	I	N	E	D	A	N	D	D	I	T	C	H	E	D	■	M	I	N	I	■
O	C	A	L	A	■	N	E	R	D	■	C	O	N	■	C	I	C	A	D	A
G	I	V	I	N	G	■	L	E	A	V	E	M	E	O	U	T	O	F	I	T
M	E	A	N	I	E	■	H	A	R	E	■	E	R	A	T	■	A	T	O	M
A	R	L	E	N	E	■	I	S	E	E	■	Y	O	K	E	■	T	A	M	S

ASK AMY

Dear Amy: I do not feel welcome in my own house.

Every week my wife asks me for my schedule (I am retired) to make sure that I am out of the house for the better portion of several days.

I have elderly and disabled family members to care for, volunteer work and friends, so I can usually find a reason to go, but some days I just leave to make her happy.

When I am home, my wife wants me to agree to the specific time I will be leaving and returning.

She does not work, have family nearby or volunteer.

She does not drink, take drugs or spend excessively and I'm sure my being gone is not so she can arrange a tryst with another man (although we haven't been physically intimate for over 12 years).

Perhaps 50 times I have suggested we see a marriage therapist, but she refuses.

My impression is that this is my wife needing to exercise control, but perhaps this is normal in marriage and I am too sensitive.

How do I get her to join me in counseling when she refuses to go?

I do not want to live the rest of my life like this.

CONTROLLED HUSBAND

Dear Controlled: I agree with you that this is an extreme example of control.

It's your house too. You have the right to spend time there, whenever you want.

Retirement can be a very tough transition for couples, especially if one partner has spent their career taking care of house and home while the other leaves for work.

You don't report asking your wife why she wants you out of the house so much.

I think it's a good thing for couples to sit down and map out their schedules for the week. But your wife cannot make you leave your own home if you don't want to, and you cannot make her join you in marriage counseling if she refuses to go.

You should seek therapy on your own. Think of it this way — it will be another hour or so every week where you will be elsewhere.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

POKER

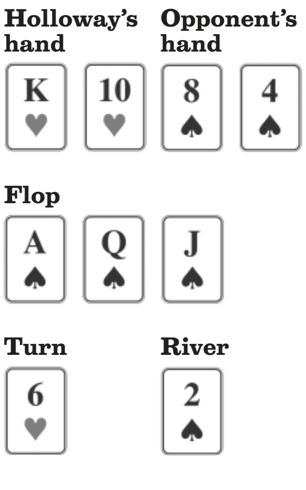
CHAD HOLLOWAY

In late 2022, I competed in the RunGood Poker Series (RGPS) season-ending All-Stars Pro-AM at PokerGO Studio in Las Vegas. The event was capped at 48 players, which was a mix of invited pros and qualifiers from the U.S. There were also 17 re-entries at $550 apiece to bring the total field up to 65 runners, which offered a $32,500 prize pool.

In Level 3 of the tournament, the blinds were 1,000/2,000/2,000 and I was hovering around the starting stack of 100,000. The under-the-gun player limped; the player next to act did the same. I was in the cutoff and opted to call with the K♥-10♥.

The players in the blinds both called and it was five-way action to a flop of A♠-Q♠-J♠. I had flopped a Broadway straight, but there were also three spades on board, meaning someone could have flopped a flush, or at the very least a flush draw.

Both blinds checked, the under-the-gun player bet 8,000, and I was the only one to call. I could've put in a raise to test the waters, to maybe ascertain whether or not my opponent had a flush, but instead I opted to proceed with caution by just calling. I had the benefit of seeing what my opponent would do on the turn, which wound up being the 6♥.



My opponent checked and I felt confident that my opponent didn't have a flush. If he did, why wouldn't he bet instead of giving me a free card that could maybe give me either a better flush or a full house. As such, I wanted to protect my hand against a flush draw by betting 15,000.

My opponent called and, to my dismay, the 2♠ put four spades on the board. If my opponent had a flush draw, then he had made a better hand. Much to my surprise, he checked, which led me to believe maybe I still had the best hand against two pair or something of the like.

My straight had some showdown value (i.e., I could beat any hand that didn't contain a spade), so betting didn't make sense. I would get called by a better hand, so checking back and hoping I was best seemed prudent.

"You got lucky," my opponent said after I checked. He then showed the 8♠-4♠ for a flopped flush. He assumed I had gotten lucky by making a bigger flush on the river, but I got lucky that another spade appeared and saved me some money. Had it not been a spade, I would've bet again.

One could argue I was unlucky to flop a straight only to be drawing dead to a flopped flush, but I got lucky not to lose more. Funny how luck works in poker.

Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner.

SUDOKU

Level: Impossible

	1						8	
		8	1		7	4		
9	7		4		8		2	3
1			3		2			4
3			8		6			9
5	2		6		9		7	1
		1	2		5	9		
	9						4	

©Amuse Labs

1	9	2	3	8	6	4	5	7
3	4	5	7	9	2	6	8	1
6	7	8	1	4	5	9	2	3
4	8	3	2	5	7	1	6	9
5	2	6	4	1	9	7	3	8
7	1	9	6	3	8	5	4	2
2	3	1	5	7	4	8	9	6
8	5	7	9	6	3	2	1	4
9	6	4	8	2	1	3	7	5

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games.*

Level: Tough

	1		7				2	
		8			3	7		
	4				9			
				3	8			5
8	2						7	1
5				7				
			9				3	
		3	6			1		
		9			4		6	

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Level: Tough

4	3			6	
		1		2	
	4		6		
	2			4	5

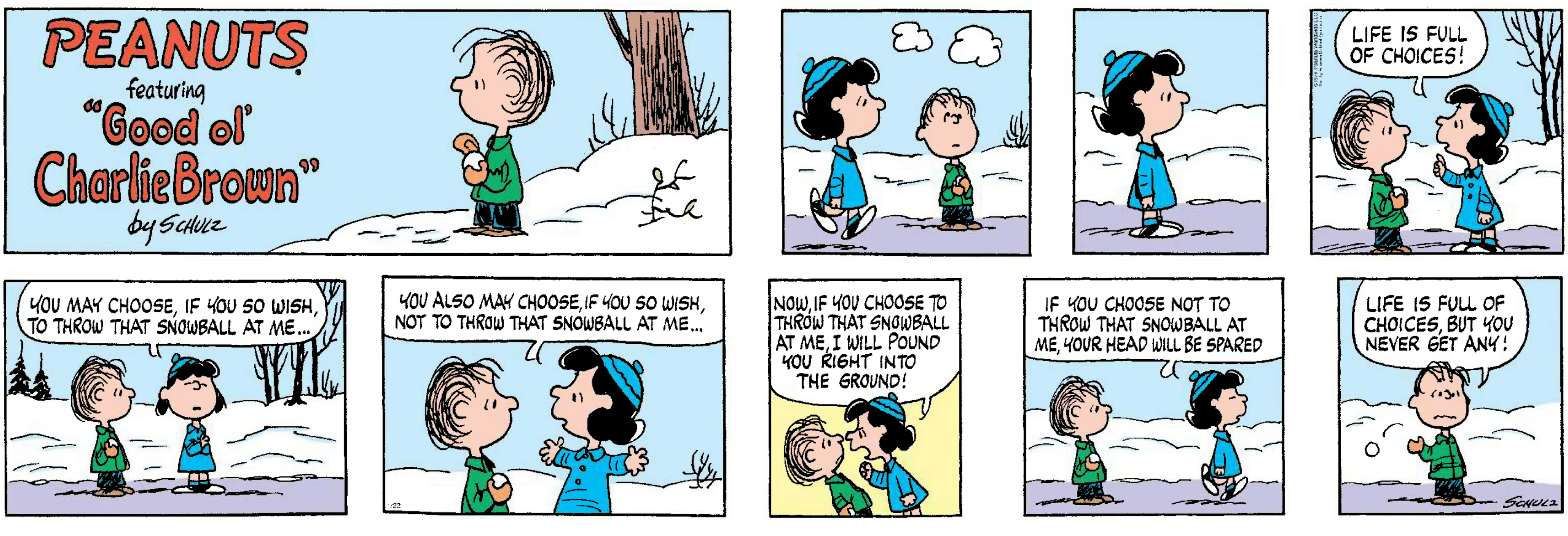
6	4	5	3	7	9	2	8	1
1	8	3	4	2	6	5	7	9
9	2	7	5	1	8	6	3	4
4	1	6	2	5	3	7	9	8
7	9	2	6	8	4	1	5	3
3	5	8	7	9	1	4	6	2
2	3	9	1	6	5	8	4	7
8	6	1	9	4	7	3	2	5
5	7	4	8	3	2	9	1	6

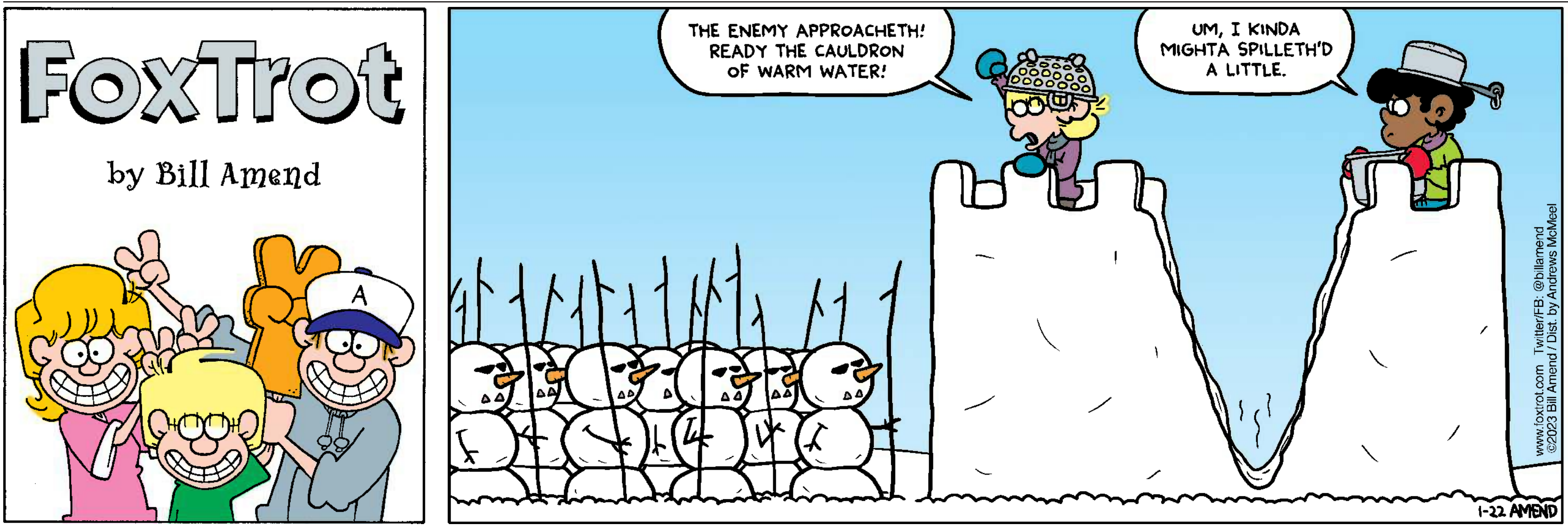
5	1	3	4	6	2
2	4	6	1	5	3
6	2	1	5	3	4
4	3	5	2	1	6
1	6	2	3	4	5
3	5	4	6	2	1

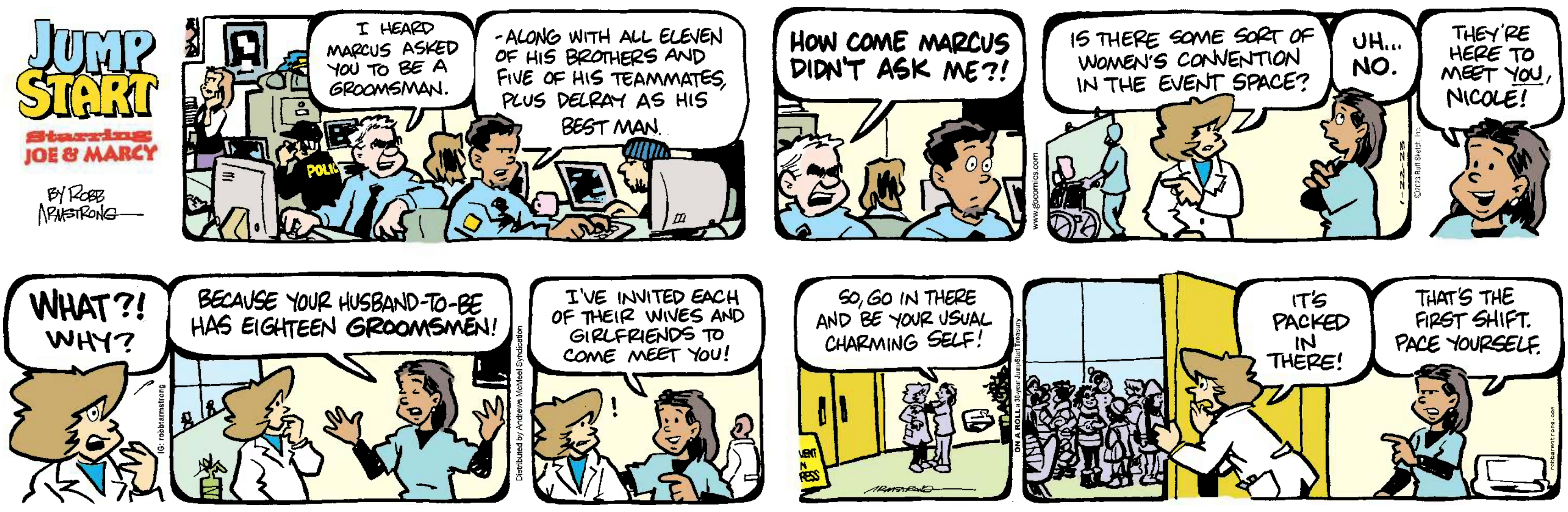
Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

1/22/23

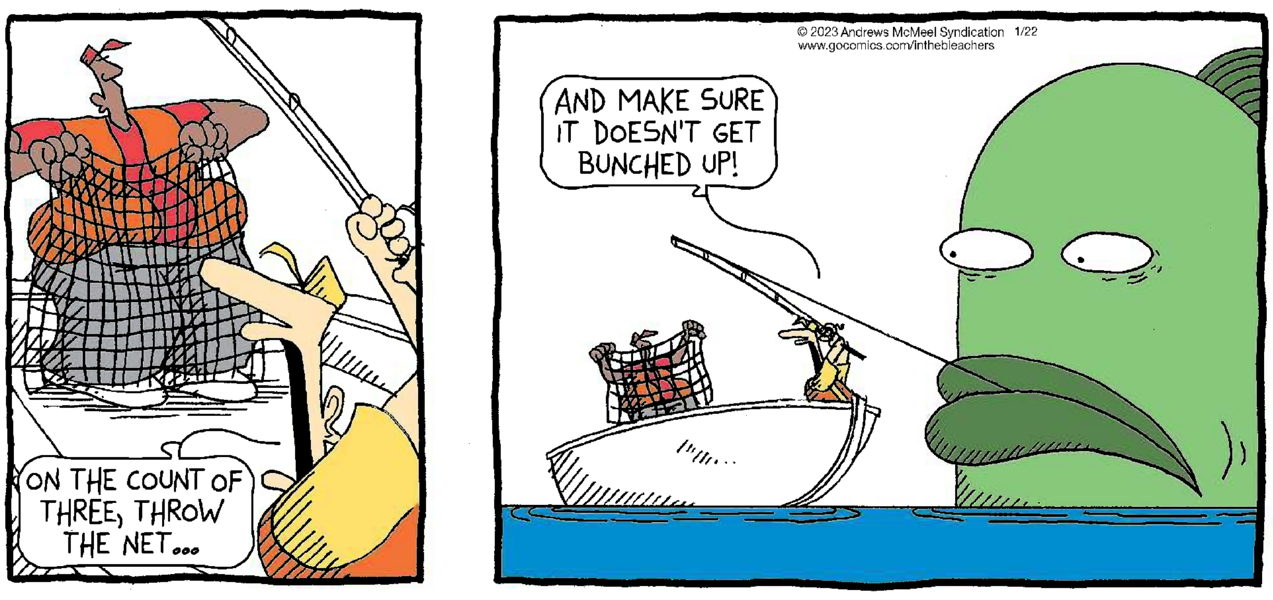
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.


PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' CharlieBrown"
by SCHULZ
LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES!
YOU MAY CHOOSE, IF YOU SO WISH, TO THROW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME...
YOU ALSO MAY CHOOSE, IF YOU SO WISH, NOT TO THROW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME...
NOW, IF YOU CHOOSE TO THROW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME, I WILL POUND YOU RIGHT INTO THE GROUND!
IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO THROW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME, YOUR HEAD WILL BE SPARED
LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES, BUT YOU NEVER GET ANY!
SCHULZ

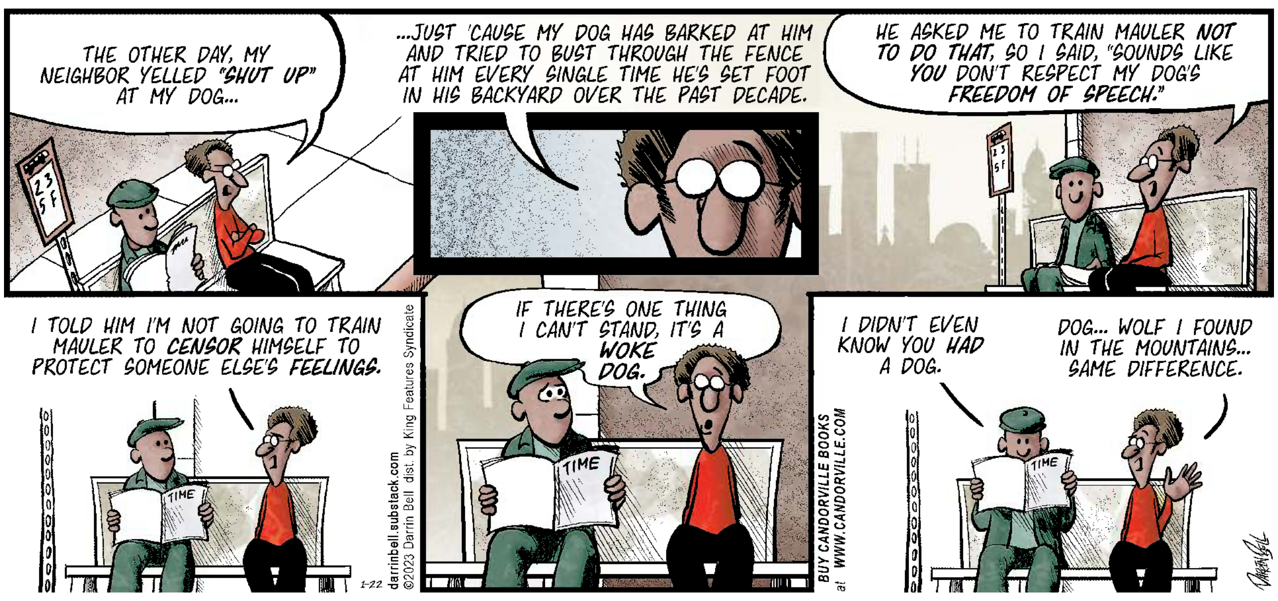

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
A
THE ENEMY APPROACHETH! READY THE CAULDRON OF WARM WATER!
UM, I KINDA MIGHTA SPILLETH'D A LITTLE.
www.foxtrot.com Twitter/FB: @billamend
©2023 Bill Amend / Dist. by Andrews McMeel
1-22 AMEND


JUMP START
Starring JOE & MARCY
BY ROBB ARMSTRONG
POLIC
I HEARD MARCUS ASKED YOU TO BE A GROOMSMAN.
-ALONG WITH ALL ELEVEN OF HIS BROTHERS AND FIVE OF HIS TEAMMATES, PLUS DELRAY AS HIS BEST MAN.
HOW COME MARCUS DIDN'T ASK ME?!
www.gocomics.com
IS THERE SOME SORT OF WOMEN'S CONVENTION IN THE EVENT SPACE?
UH... NO.
1-22-23
©2023 Ruff Sketch, Inc.
THEY'RE HERE TO MEET YOU, NICOLE!
WHAT?! WHY?
IG: robbtarmstrong
BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND-TO-BE HAS EIGHTEEN GROOMSMEN!
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
I'VE INVITED EACH OF THEIR WIVES AND GIRLFRIENDS TO COME MEET YOU!
!
SO, GO IN THERE AND BE YOUR USUAL CHARMING SELF!
ARMSTRONG
ON A ROLL is 30-year JumpStart Treasury
IT'S PACKED IN THERE!
THAT'S THE FIRST SHIFT. PACE YOURSELF.
robbarmstrong.com

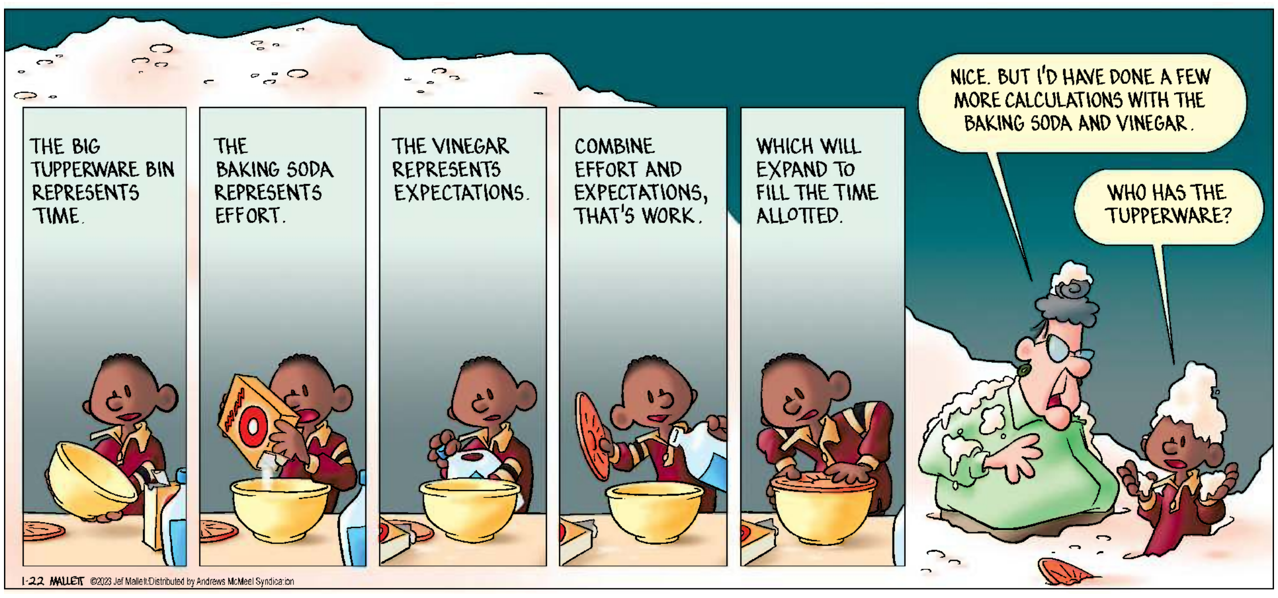
IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

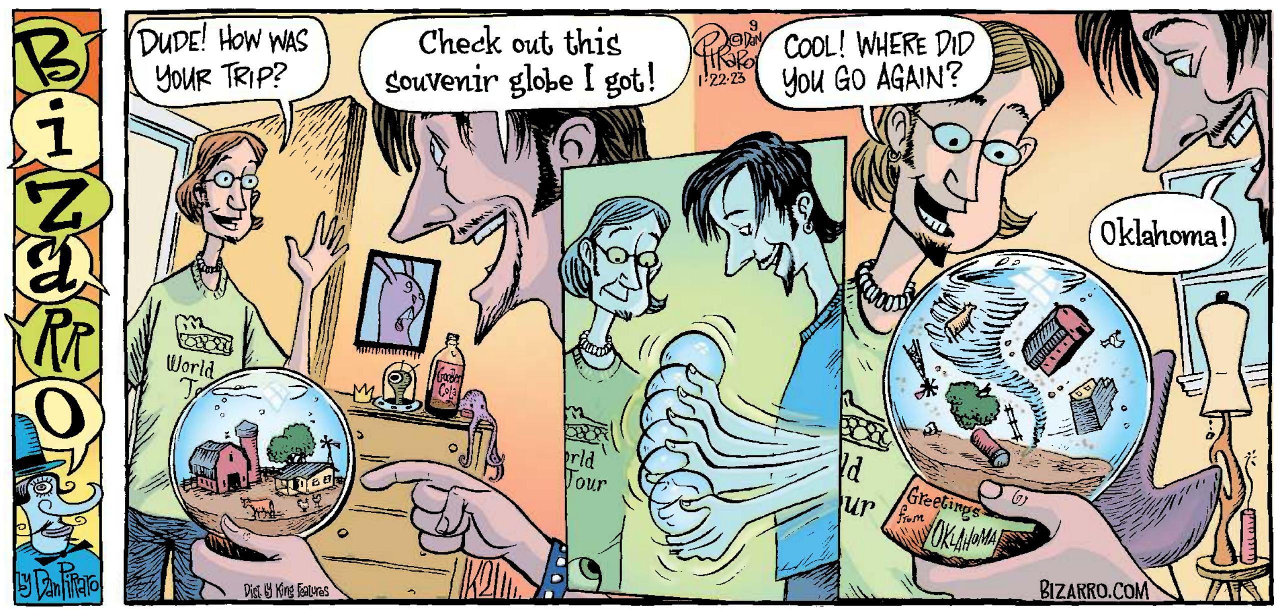

ON THE COUNT OF THREE, THROW THE NET...
© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication 1/22
www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers
AND MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GET BUNCHED UP!

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

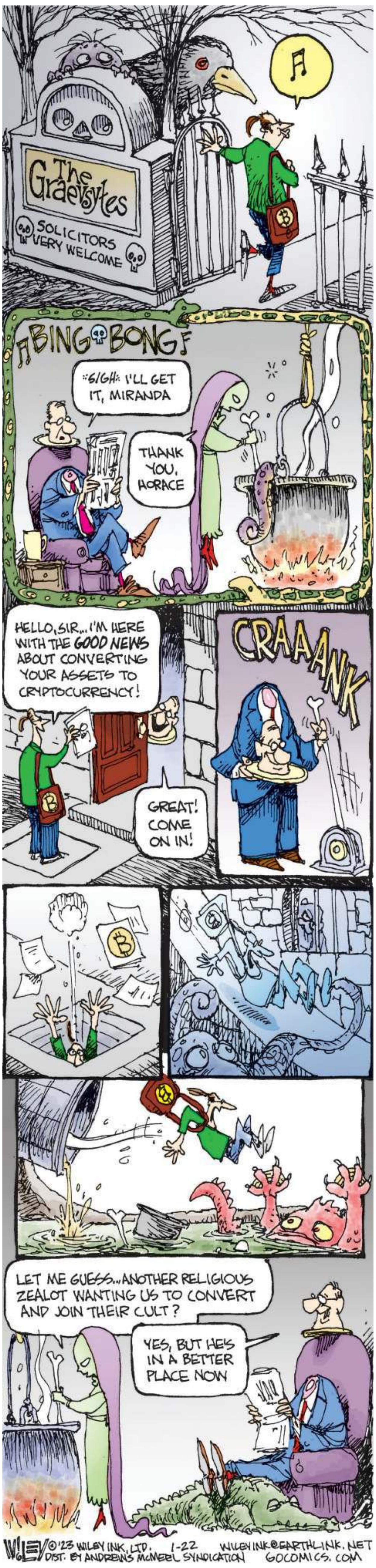

THE OTHER DAY, MY NEIGHBOR YELLED "SHUT UP" AT MY DOG...
...JUST 'CAUSE MY DOG HAS BARKED AT HIM AND TRIED TO BUST THROUGH THE FENCE AT HIM EVERY SINGLE TIME HE'S SET FOOT IN HIS BACKYARD OVER THE PAST DECADE.
HE ASKED ME TO TRAIN MAULER NOT TO DO THAT, SO I SAID, "SOUNDS LIKE YOU DON'T RESPECT MY DOG'S FREEDOM OF SPEECH."
I TOLD HIM I'M NOT GOING TO TRAIN MAULER TO CENSOR HIMSELF TO PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE'S FEELINGS.
TIME
1-22
darrinbell.substack.com
©2023 Darrin Bell dist. by King Features Syndicate
IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND, IT'S A WOKE DOG.
TIME
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS at WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAD A DOG.
DOG... WOLF I FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS... SAME DIFFERENCE.
TIME
DARRIN BELL

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


THE BIG TUPPERWARE BIN REPRESENTS TIME.
THE BAKING SODA REPRESENTS EFFORT.
THE VINEGAR REPRESENTS EXPECTATIONS.
COMBINE EFFORT AND EXPECTATIONS, THAT'S WORK.
WHICH WILL EXPAND TO FILL THE TIME ALLOTTED.
NICE. BUT I'D HAVE DONE A FEW MORE CALCULATIONS WITH THE BAKING SODA AND VINEGAR.
WHO HAS THE TUPPERWARE?
1-22 MALLETT ©2023 Jef Mallett Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication


BiZaRRO
by Dan Piraro
DUDE! HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?
Check out this souvenir globe I got!
©DAN PIRARO 1·22·23
9
COOL! WHERE DID YOU GO AGAIN?
World Tour
Goober Cola
Oklahoma!
Greetings from OKLAHOMA
Dist. by King Features
K2
BIZARRO.COM

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


The Graevsytes
SOLICITORS VERY WELCOME
BING BONG
SIGH I'LL GET IT, MIRANDA
THANK YOU, HORACE
HELLO, SIR... I'M HERE WITH THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CONVERTING YOUR ASSETS TO CRYPTOCURRENCY!
GREAT! COME ON IN!
CRAAANK
LET ME GUESS... ANOTHER RELIGIOUS ZEALOT WANTING US TO CONVERT AND JOIN THEIR CULT?
YES, BUT HE'S IN A BETTER PLACE NOW
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Parade

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22,

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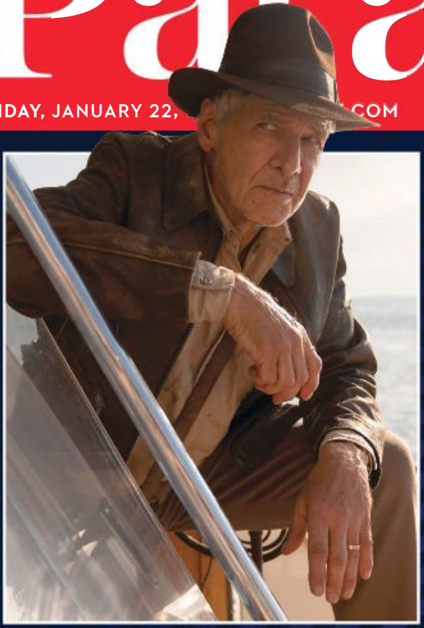

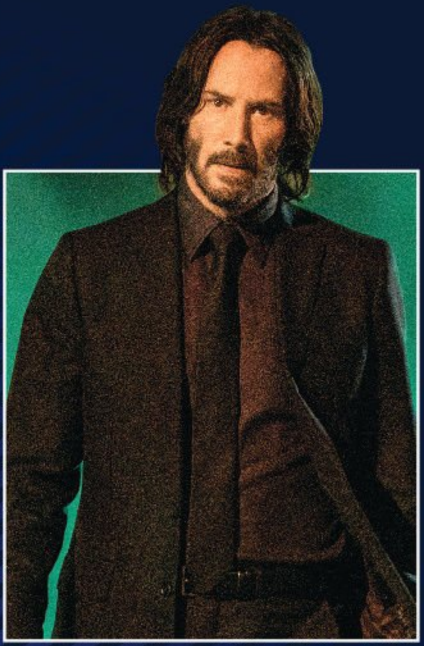

MUST-WATCH MOVIES

The best of 2023, from Indiana Jones to Barbie, JLo and Keanu!

PLUS *Roman Holiday* Turns 70, page 6

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FROM PARADE

NEWSLETTER

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Yada, yada, yada...Go to ***Parade.com/julia*** for more *Seinfeld* quotes.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS

Louis-Dreyfus, 62, joins Eddie Murphy, Nia Long and David Duchovny in *You People* (Jan. 27 on Netflix), as the parents of an interracial couple (Jonah Hill, Lauren London), who fall in love and confront societal expectations and clashing cultures. It's hard to believe that Louis-Dreyfus has been entertaining us for 40+ years, since she left Northwestern University in Chicago to join the *Saturday Night Live* cast at 21, becoming the youngest-ever female cast member. Here are some of the career highlights of the star who is a breast-cancer survivor and has two grown sons, Charlie and Henry, with husband Brad Hall.

Jerry Seinfeld on Louis-Dreyfus: He said her ability to eat a peanut M&M without breaking the peanut aptly describes the actress:

> "SHE CRACKS YOU UP WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR NUTS."

Tina Fey has said that Louis-Dreyfus served as inspiration for her Liz Lemon role on *30 Rock*.

She was first female former ***SNL*** cast member to return as host (May 2006).

Seinfeld fans will be happy to know you can buy a **Seinfeld Elaine Figure. $12, funko.com**

8

That's how many **Lead-Actress Emmys** Louis-Dreyfus has earned, tying with Cloris Leachman for the female with the most wins. Louis-Dreyfus is the only actress to win Emmys for three separate comedy series (*Seinfeld*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine* and *Veep*).

She was awarded a Star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame** on May 4, 2010.

CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC, FOR HBO; DANA EDELSON/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; ALI GOLDSTEIN/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW ECCLES/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN SHEARER/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

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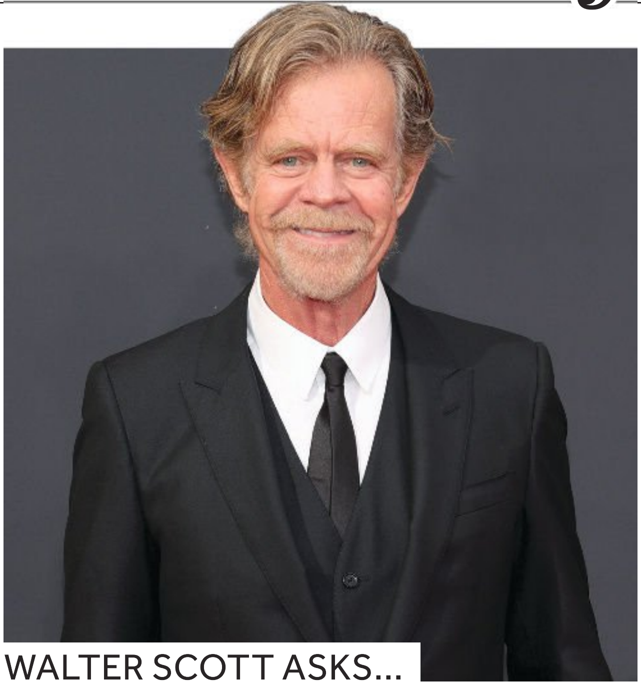
WALTER SCOTT'S Personality Parade



WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

WILLIAM H. MACY

The *Shameless* star, 72, heads to the big screen in the star-studded cast of *Maybe I Do* (in theaters Jan. 27), joining Diane Keaton, Richard Gere, and Susan Sarandon in a multi-generational comedy about love. Macy and Sarandon are parents to Allen (Luke Bracey) and Keaton and Gere are parents to Michelle (Emma Roberts). They all come together for a family dinner to discuss whether Michelle and Allen should take the next steps toward marriage. What happens next is a surprise to everyone.

***Maybe I Do* asks the question: Does love last forever? Do you think there is a simple answer to that?** Not a simple answer, no. Can love last forever? Yes, it can. Can the same kind of love last as it is forever? No, I think it's got to evolve. My wife [Felicity Huffman] loves to make the joke you want to get through your first husband as fast as you can, so you can get to the good stuff. The assumption being we all blow it the first time out—and statistics would hold that true.

The film is about how tough it is to find a life partner. Back when the marriage contract was born, people lived to 50 or less. "Forever and ever, amen" meant a different thing. Now we live two complete lifetimes, or the equivalent of it. We've got to keep rolling with the punches and adapting. [Writer-director Michael Jacobs] cast us because we're all of a certain age and we know this story vividly.

My wife rather disarmingly said a couple of years ago, "Well, you're in your third act. What are your plans?" It caught me off guard because I didn't realize I was in my third act, and third acts are traditionally very, very short.

Your character Sam is so very lonely and unhappy in his marriage. And yet, he's the one encouraging Allen to marry Michelle. How is he still a believer in love? I think people are born that way. He believes in marriage, and he believes in love everlasting almost as a political belief. He believes it deeply in his soul, and God love him for that. I do too. I believe in love. The older I get, the more I believe in it.

Macy and wife Felicity Huffman

Do you believe that there's one person that's right for us? There can be several. And no harm, no foul, I say. But I also believe that you can meet someone when you're 20 or 25 years old and that person is a great partner for you for the rest of your life. I think it happens; love evolves, and both people have to evolve with it. But it's possible. And it sure is a romantic ideal, isn't it?

When Sam takes off his jacket in the motel room and he's wearing suspenders rather than a belt, I thought, *Is that something you did to help us know who he is?* What a great question. There isn't a lot of backstory. I decided, with [the director's] blessing, that Sam retired, sold his company very, very well, so money is not a problem. And he's still vaguely involved with it in some sort of a capacity. And, in fact, when I go to the movie theater [where I accidentally meet Diane's character], I'm coming from a business meeting that I have to do once a month, meet with the board or something, so I wanted a nice suit. Braces are making their way back in the world and I love them, so I thought if I love them, he loves them.

The best line in the movie—and it's yours—is, "By not touching each other [physically], we touched each other." Did that speak to you, as well? Oh, yes. It's a beautiful, beautiful script. I hope it translates to the screen. I've only seen it

FROM LEFT: RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES; TODD WILLIAMSON/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

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once and it's hard for an actor to watch his own work the first time. But, yes, I love that line. I love his romance. There are some fabulous phrases in there. Also, in Sam's rage against his wife and her rage against him, oh, my God, some of the insults are just delicious.

It's a great cast—Richard Gere, Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon and you—Oscar winners and nominees. With such funny stuff in this film, which of the four of you broke the most often? Good question. It might have been me. And if it wasn't me, it would be Susan. She's got such a delicious sense of humor and, God, she's so wicked smart. She sees the humor in everything.

I was gobsmacked to join this cast, and so pleased. I love these actors. I've revered them my whole life. I couldn't help myself, the first day of shooting I brought up that moment in *Reds* where Diane's waiting for Warren to get off the train and it appears that he's not getting off the train and she's thinking he's dead, and then when he does step off that look on her face. Oh, my God, I will take that to my grave.

The parental units in *Maybe I Do*: Richard Gere and Diane Keaton and William H. Macy and Susan Sarandon.

And Susan. The more I spend time with her, I remember she did *Thelma and Louise*, *Bull Durham*, and *Atlantic City*—good God what a sexy movie. And Susan and Tim Robbins had this company in L.A. called The Actors' Gang and Felicity and I did one of their plays with them, one of their stage screenings that they do. Susan's done it all.

***Shameless* isn't that far in your rearview mirror. Is there a part of Frank Gallagher that you will carry with you always?** Absolutely. Professionally it was the most profound thing I've ever done because it ran for a decade. I really got my 10,000 hours on *Shameless*. I wish I could have done it earlier in my career. I love Frank, I love his willingness, his boldness to speak the unspeakable. I love his soullessness. And at the same time there was genuine affection. We do become the characters after that long. I loved the cast and crew, and I can see that in Frank, a little bit, he loved them too.

Other than acting is there something you're passionate about? Well, I married an actor and one of my daughters is an actor, so it's pretty much what we talk about all the time. My youngest daughter, who's not an actor, is ready to kill us all. Other than acting, I'm semi-retired, or at least I've gotten a lot pickier about what I'm going to do.

We moved to Colorado, we're residents now. We bought Felicity's childhood home, which was an excellent husband move on my part. I've carved out part of the barn and I built a wood shop. I like to do woodworking. I turn bowls on a lathe. I've built some heirloom-quality furniture. I like to work with carpenters who are better than me. We changed all the fencing on the corral. This fencing was 2 x 6 fir and it's weathered deliciously. I've figured out a way to make benches out of it. They're called three-board benches. People just fell [in love] over these benches.

I love playing ukulele. I've been playing music my whole life. So, I've been writing songs. I started out writing birthday songs for my wife and daughters. I'm the spokesperson for Woody Creek Distillers and I just finished a song for them.

It sounds like you're having the best time of your life right now. It's pretty swell. I'm still healthy, knock on wood. I still like what I do. I love the fact that I've gained wisdom, if I can use that word. Pretty much every time I do a play, I'm the oldest guy. I love this business because they don't cast you aside when you become one of the elder statesmen. So, I've been doing a little bit of teaching, and some philanthropy. Felicity and I started a donor-advised fund and with what resources we have, we've been giving away money to great causes. Also, it turns out I'm really good at doing nothing at all.

You have two daughters, Sophia, 22, and Georgia, 20. When you were doing this movie, did you consider whether there was a message in it for young women? Sure. Maybe young men more than young women. I think the message is there are no easy answers and marriage is very difficult, but we have to keep putting one foot in front of the other. It's better to keep trying and fail than to give up. I think Luke's character says it, "If I love her so much, why would I do that to her, marry her? Because marriages so often don't work. Why would I do that?" It speaks to me. Why would you do that? Because that's what life is. Take a chance. If you fail, get up, figure out what you did wrong. But you've got to keep moving forward and you've got to have faith in the future.

FROM TOP: AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; RAY MICKSHAW/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

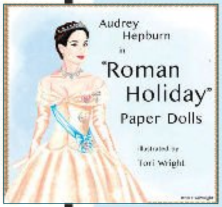
The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

BE LIKE AUDREY

Outfits of Audrey Hepburn Fashion Tote Bag ***redbubble.com, $25***

Roman Holiday socks ***redbubble.com, $18***


Audrey Hepburn in "Roman Holiday" Paper Dolls
Illustrated by Tori Wright

Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday* Paper Dolls by ThePaperCostumier ***etsy.com, $4***

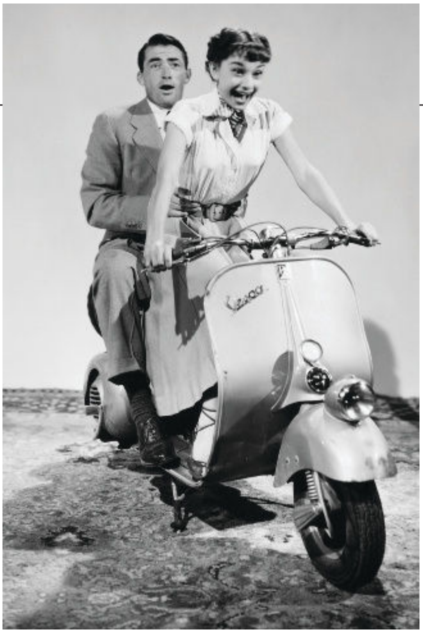
Princess Ann Scarf Inspired by *Roman Holiday* ***utopiat.com,$10***

Roman Holiday Ceramic Coffee Mug ***nyvane.com, $14***

Roman Holiday

Roman Holiday Retro Movie Poster from Plan9Studio, ***etsy.com, $24***

Audrey Hepburn Hightops ***customkiks.com, $70***



ROMAN HOLIDAY

(JANUARY 22 AND 25 IN THEATERS; STREAMING ON PRIME VIDEO)

Happy 70th birthday to *Roman Holiday*, the wonderful William Wyler-directed movie with **Audrey Hepburn** (in her debut starring role) and **Gregory Peck**. The 1953 romantic comedy about a princess (Ann) who rebels against royal restraints—and falls in love with an American journalist (Joe, played by Peck, 37)—made a star of the 24-year-old Hepburn and was a travel agent's dream as it showcased delightful Roman locations, including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the Mouth of Truth (where visitors still nervously insert their hands to prove they're not lying). Here we celebrate the classic movie and its stars with a peek into the *Parade* archives and a nod to Audrey Hepburn style. Go to ***fathomevents.com*** to find a theater near you that's showing *Roman Holiday*.

100,000

An estimate of the number of Vespas sold, thanks to the Italian scooter's starring role in *Roman Holiday* and its appearance on the movie poster. The movie scooter, a rare 2-stroke model, sold to a collector for more than $250,000 in 2017.

10

Number of Oscar nominations for *Roman Holiday*. Hepburn won for Best Actress and **Edith Head** for the costumes.

Love Oscar Fashions? Go to ***Parade.com/costumes*** for highlights from 70 years of Academy Awards.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JOHN SPRINGER COLLECTION/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; MATTEO NARDONE/PACIFIC PRESS VIA ZUMA PRESS WIRE/ALAMY

parade
CHICAGO SUNDAY SUN-TIMES
March 9, 1952
How Jet Attacks Pay Off
GIGI . . . GEE!

GIGI-GEE!

March 9, 1952

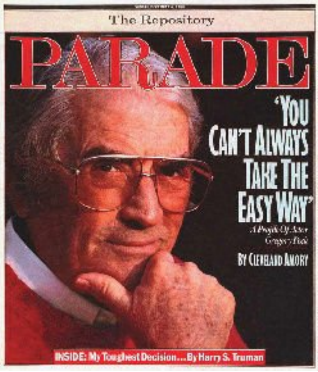
A year before she starred in her screen debut in *Roman Holiday*, Hepburn, 22, was on *Parade*'s cover talking about her role as Gigi on Broadway, and about her childhood in Holland during World War II, where as a teen she danced in private homes to raise money for the Dutch underground. "I'm halfway between a dancer and an actress," Hepburn confided to *Parade*. "I've got a lot to learn." Go to ***Parade.com/classic*** for the full story.

parade
Bridgeport Sunday Post
NEW TRIO
A worse killer of children than polio

NEW "TRIO"

February 17, 1957

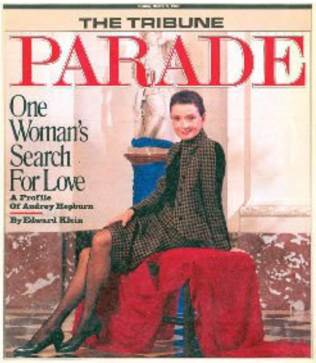
Hepburn, 27, played Maurice Chevalier's cello-playing daughter in *Love in the Afternoon*, a romantic comedy that paired her with Gary Cooper, who was twice her age.


The Repository
PARADE
'You Can't Always Take The Easy Way'
A Profile Of Actor Gregory Peck
By Cleveland Amory
INSIDE: My Toughest Decision...By Harry S. Truman

FINDING JOY

December 4, 1988

Peck spoke about meeting his second wife, Veronique, on the set of *Roman Holiday*. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," Peck, 72, said, "I learned from her how it is possible to be happy." He and Veronique were married 47 years, until his death in 2003.


THE TRIBUNE
PARADE
One Woman's Search For Love
A Profile Of Audrey Hepburn
By Edward Klein

LOOKING FOR LOVE

March 5, 1989

"My mother [once] said, 'Considering that you have no talent, it's really extraordinary where you've got.' And that's what I really believe to this day. My success—it still bewilders me," Hepburn, 59, told *Parade*. She was a Special Advisor for UNICEF, living in Switzerland with her partner, Robert Wolders. "I'm a long way from the human being I'd like to be. But I've decided I'm not so bad after all."

SHRINKING

(Jan. 27 on Apple TV)

The death of his wife sends grieving psychiatrist Jimmy Laird (**Jason Segel**) on a journey of change. Segel was attracted to the role of the psychiatrist (**Harrison Ford** plays his mentor) who throws his training out the window because it resonated with his own past experiences. "I think that someone going through some intense stuff can—and should—be presented with a lot of humor because that's what life is like," Segel said. "My experience with really intense moments is that they're often hilarious and sometimes our most joyful moments are really emotional."

WOLF PACK

(Jan. 26 on Paramount+)

Buffy star Sarah **Michelle Gellar** will return to supernatural TV this January in the horror drama *Wolf Pack*, based on the books by Edo Van Belkom. It's the story of teenagers Everett (Armani Jackson) and Blake (Bella Shepard), whose lives are changed forever when a California wildfire awakens a terrifying supernatural creature—a werewolf.

"It's really scary," says Gellar, 45, who plays arson investigator Kristin Ramsey. "*Wolf Pack* uses monsters to [illustrate] anxiety, depression and isolation, all those emotions that young kids and adults are already feeling. And to me, that's when scary stories work the best, when they're telling a secondary story. What it's like to be so isolated these days, and what does someone's 'pack' look like?"

POKER FACE

(Jan. 26, Peacock)

If you loved *Columbo,* the *Knives Out* movies or **Natasha Lyonne** in *Russian Doll*, don't miss this case-of-the-week series about Charlie Cale, an "accidental" detective who can tell when someone is lying. Lyonne, 43, directs one episode of the show, which is the brainchild of *Knives Out*'s Rian Johnson.

Can you tell when someone is fibbing?
Go to ***Parade.com/lying*** for tips from
former members of the CIA.

FROM TOP: APPLE+ TV; CURTIS BONDS BAKER/PARAMOUNT+; EVANS VESTAL WARD/PEACOCK

2023's HOTTEST MOVIES

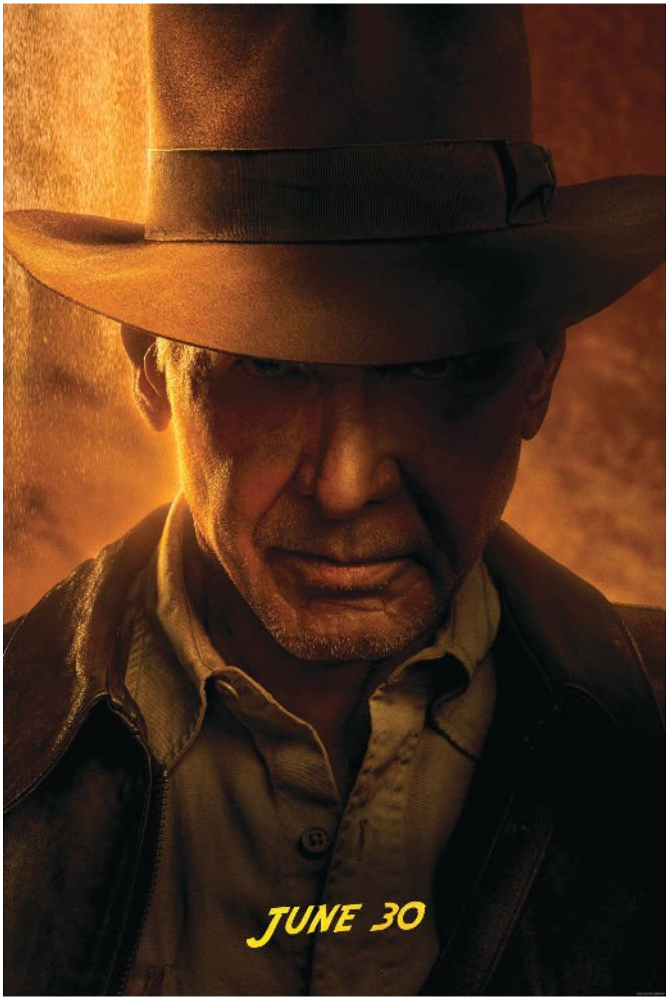
CHECK OUT *PARADE*'S MUST-WATCH LIST FOR THE NEW YEAR.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

Thanks for all the high-flying memories, Maverick. We still can't help falling in love with you, Elvis. But the turn of the calendar means that it's officially time to have a tizzy over a fresh slate of movies. And after three years of pandemic-induced stop-and-start productions and delayed releases, Hollywood is finally storming the gates with a slew of would-be blockbusters. "If 2022 was a transitional year for movies, then I think 2023 is going to mark a really strong recovery," says Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for Comscore, a company that measures and analyzes box-office and small-screen numbers. "There are so many recognizable and interesting titles coming out at a steadier pace. You won't see a drought or just one film dominating." Indeed, say hello again in a hurry to the likes of Indiana Jones, John Wick, the Ant-Man and the Wasp, Ethan Hunt and (fingers crossed) Elle Woods—plus Willy Wonka and Barbie in a whole new hue. Here are 10 enticing and exciting offerings primed to light up the dark.

INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

IN THEATERS, JUNE 30



THE STORY

Story, shmory. All that really matters is our favorite fedora-wearing daredevil archaeologist—played by **Harrison Ford**, of course—returns to action. The same goes for John Rhys-Davies as Sallah (aka "the best digger in Egypt"), as well as composer John Williams and executive producers George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. *Ford v Ferrari*'s James Mangold directs, and **Phoebe Waller-Bridges** also costars.

THE SCOOP

The fifth and final installment of the saga spans several decades but opens in 1944, which is only eight years after the events in 1981's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The result? The 80-year-old Ford will look decades younger onscreen, courtesy of visual effects and Industrial Light & Magic software. "I don't want to know how it works," the star has said. "It doesn't make me want to be young, though." Ford also recently quipped at a fan convention that he's explored his last underground cave: "This is it . . . I will not fall down for you again."

THE OUTLOOK

Though *Raiders* will always reign supreme, the mere mention of the wry hero in the title makes this adventure pic a summer must-see. Let's go along for the ride.

FROM LEFT: LUCASFILM LTD.; JONATHAN OLLEY/LUCASFILM; COVER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JONATHAN OLLEY/LUCASFILM; ANA CARBALLOSA/LIONSGATE; MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE; JAAP BUITENDIJK/WARNER BROTHERS

SHOTGUN WEDDING

AMAZON PRIME, JAN. 27

THE STORY

Till death do us part. Darcy (**Jennifer Lopez**) and Tom (**Josh Duhamel**) are about to get married on an exotic island when pirates crash the party, hijack the wedding procession and cause stage-five chaos. Now the couple must save their loved ones with some outlandish antics. (It's normal to carry a live grenade in the jungle, right?)

THE SCOOP

Shortly after Armie Hammer had to exit the groom role, Jennifer Coolidge, Sonia Braga, Cheech Marin, Callie Hernandez and Lenny Kravitz all joined the cast and decamped to the Dominican Republic for filming. Real-life newlywed Lopez, meanwhile, is going bridal for the second time in a year after *Marry Me* (and her ninth time overall!). Bridal designer Galia Lahav crafted 28 versions of JLo's off-the-shoulder white gown so it could be "modified, ripped and transformed into a uniform suitable for a glam action hero," per a press release.

THE OUTLOOK

Think 100 action-packed minutes of comedy, romance and thrills with a flash of serious star power. Last year, that potent combination proved to be a winner for *Ticket to Paradise* and *The Lost City*.

ANA CARBALLOSA/LIONSGATE

OPPENHEIMER

IN THEATERS, JULY 21

THE STORY

The epic thriller chronicles the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the enigmatic American scientist who ran the Manhattan Project—which led to the creation of the atomic bomb during World War II. Irish actor **Cillian Murphy** (*Dunkirk*) takes the titular role.

THE SCOOP

With Christopher Nolan (The *Dark Knight* trilogy, *Tenet*) writing and directing, surely this is no ordinary biopic. And as per his usual MO, plot details are being treated like government secrets. But we do know that the predominantly black-and-white film, shot in New Mexico, will take place over 45 years. Plus, the cast includes Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon, Emily Blunt and Nolan regulars Gary Oldman and Kenneth Branagh.

THE OUTLOOK

This one may not go down easily with rom-com fans or folks who aren't up for out-of-the-box storytelling; Nolan's intricate films never do. But it's a must-watch for history and science buffs, and Nolan fans will eagerly rush to see this latest project.

Can't get enough movies? Go to ***Parade.com/best-movies*** for our list of the top 100 films.

FROM TOP: UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ALAMY; JAY MAIDMENT/MARVEL

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA

IN THEATERS, FEB. 17

THE STORY

All is extra-well for **Paul Rudd**'s Scott Lang (i.e., Ant-Man) and **Evangeline Lilly**'s Hope van Dyne (i.e., The Wasp) after the events of *Avengers: Endgame*. That is, until the pair start experimenting with a device that can send a signal to the Quantum Realm. Hope's concerned mom (Michelle Pfeiffer) asks for it to be turned off, only for the contraption to open and suck them all into the hidden universe, where they must work together to find a way home.

THE SCOOP

The third installment of the Ant-Man saga marks the new "Phase Five" of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It also introduces new characters and creatures—one of which, Krylar, is played by Bill Murray in his comic book flick debut. In the trailer, Murray's character pops up with a surprised expression on his face; the actor has only hinted about the role: "My power is, he's a bad guy." Michael Douglas, as Hope's dad, returns as well.

THE OUTLOOK

Amid the extravaganza, never underestimate a fun and relatable superhero who's "small in stature but big in personality," says Comscore's Dergarabedian. That amazing ensemble doesn't hurt, either.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE — DEAD RECKONING — PART ONE

IN THEATERS, JULY 14

113
POLIZIA

SAMANTHA ZUCCHI/INSIDEFOTO/MONDADORI PORTFOLIO VIA GETTY IMAGES

THE STORY

Light the fuse and cue up the classic theme song: **Tom Cruise** is back as secret agent Ethan Hunt in the first of consecutive installments. (Part Two is due in 2024.) Writer-director Christopher McQuarrie has explained that the cryptic subtitle is a metaphorical "navigational term" in that Hunt is picking a course based solely on his last known position. (Whatever that means!)

THE SCOOP

Don't look now but Cruise's Hunt has been running from the bad guys since 1996. Cut to McQuarrie sharing that Part Seven is "meant to serve as a send-off" for the character. (However, he didn't rule out a spin-off featuring some of the Impossible Mission Force team, played by Ving Rhames, Rebecca Ferguson and Simon Pegg.) Not that Hunt will slow down here: The locales range from Rome to Abu Dhabi.

THE OUTLOOK

Dergarabedian expects this baby to be the biggest and most explosive hit of the year. "Tom Cruise still has a halo effect from *Top Gun: Maverick,*" he says, "And this movie is really its spiritual successor."

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET

IN THEATERS, APRIL 28

THE STORY

This bittersweet coming-of-age tale should ring a bell for all former 12-year-old girls. Based on Judy Blume's award-winning 1970 novel, it focuses on a recently uprooted sixth-grader (**Abby Ryder Fortson**) battling the challenges of adolescence in the New Jersey suburbs as she tries to find her place in the world. Think boys, spin the bottle and tampon shopping, oh my.

THE SCOOP

Blume reportedly rejected many book-to-movie adaptation offers over the years before finally selling the rights to screenwriter and director Kelly Fremon Craig (*The Edge of Seventeen*) and veteran producer James L. Brooks (*Terms of Endearment*, *As Good as It Gets*). Note that the narrative is still set in 1970 with Rachel McAdams, Benny Safdie and **Kathy Bates** portraying Margaret's relatives. "It's a real cacophony of honest, truthful things women and mothers experience on a whole," McAdams has said.

THE OUTLOOK

To paraphrase our adolescent heroine, you must, you must, you must seek this one out! "All the elements are here to make this a thoughtful, funny and moving film," Dergarabedian says.

WONKA

IN THEATERS, DEC. 15

THE STORY

You've already been in Willy Wonka's world of pure imagination. This musical prequel centers on the enigmatic chocolatier before he grew into the legend as depicted in Roald Dahl's 1964 children's novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (and subsequent 1971 big-screen adaptation starring Gene Wilder). **Timothée Chalamet** (*Dune*) may not physically resemble a young Wilder, but he does boast Wonka's signature brown top hat, purple coat and walking cane (as opposed to a candy one).

THE SCOOP

The Oscar nominee has revealed that he performs seven song-and-dance numbers in the years-in-the-making film—and added that despite Wonka's mischievous and slightly sinister adult disposition, "This movie is so sincere, it's so joyous," he says. Chalamet is joined by big names like Keegan-Michael Key, Rowan Atkinson and Olivia Colman. Sally Hawkins (*The Shape of Water*) is his mother.

THE OUTLOOK

In an early clip from the film shown to VIP audiences, Chalamet reportedly reads from a candy wrapper, "It's not the chocolate that matters; it's the people you share it with." Now that the talented actor is sharing his interpretation of the beloved character, this one has the makings of a delicious confection.

FROM TOP: DANA HAWLEY/LIONSGATE; TKTK/WARNER BROS

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4

IN THEATERS, MARCH 24

THE STORY

Our titular hero (**Keanu Reeves**) was last seen separating from the assassin organization known as The High Table and presumed dead. (Ian McShane's Winston shot him off the roof of a skyscraper, after all.) It turns out he's merely injured and in the care of the Bowery King (Laurence Fishburne), known as the head of the underground intelligence network.

THE SCOOP

A decade ago, few would have predicted that a low-budget action flick in which a heartbroken loner seeks revenge for his dog's murder would spur a smash franchise. "It's really special the way the films have been embraced," Reeves said in 2019 upon the release of Chapter 3. "It's something you hope for, but it's still pretty extraordinary." For this installment, the star recently teased "amazing action and characters, and more world-building."

THE OUTLOOK

Given that each Wick film has out-grossed its predecessor, there's no reason to think this one won't follow suit. Says Dergarabedian, "Anyone that drives cool cars, can scrap like a video game hero and loves dogs as much as John Wick is more than all right."

MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE (2)

BARBIE

IN THEATERS, JULY 21

THE STORY

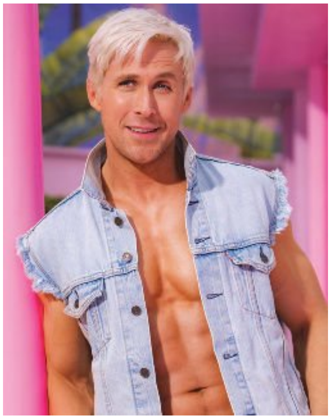
There's mystery galore surrounding this candy-coated entry. But the studio has released photos of **Margot Robbie**'s Barbie giggling in her pink convertible, and **Ryan Gosling**'s Ken looking buff and blonde in a denim vest and jeans. ("I have that Ken-ergy you can feel," he's joked.) Plus, Will Ferrell has revealed that he plays the insensitive CEO of Mattel, Inc.

THE SCOOP

Don't expect a straightforward goofy comedy chock-full of zany adventures of Barbie in her Dreamhouse. Writer-director Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*) has hinted that she's put a modern and meta spin on the seemingly perfect doll . . . with Mattel's full cooperation. To that end, it's been reported that Issa Rae and Hari Nef play alternative versions of Barbie, while Simu Liu and Ncuti Gatwa are 2.0 versions of Ken.

THE OUTLOOK

All signs point to fantastic plastic. "Gosling and Robbie aren't going to be in a movie called *Barbie* unless it has some gravitas," Dergarabedian says. "This could be something impactful that also entertains."



BARBIE BY JAAP BUITENDIJK (2); LEGALLY BLONDE BY MOVIESTORE COLLECTION LTD/ALAMY

LEGALLY BLONDE 3

TO BE ANNOUNCED

THE STORY

Considering the sheer volume of *Legally Blonde* re-airings, it's hard to believe that more than two decades have passed since we first watched **Reese Witherspoon**'s Gemini vegetarian Harvard law student defy all those stereotypes. Now the ever-endearing Elle Woods is reportedly trying to juggle motherhood and her career in her 40s.

THE SCOOP

Though the third chapter was greenlit back in 2018, as of press time, the cameras have yet to start rolling. (All together now: What, like it's hard?). "I'm still hoping it's going to come together the right way," says Witherspoon, also a producer. "I feel like these characters are my friends, so I want to safeguard them. I would never want to make the subpar, mediocre version of their story." At least co-screenwriter Mindy Kaling has confirmed that **Jennifer Coolidge** will reprise her part as Paulette the manicurist.

THE OUTLOOK

Oh, (bend and) snap! Who wouldn't want another day in court with Elle Woods?

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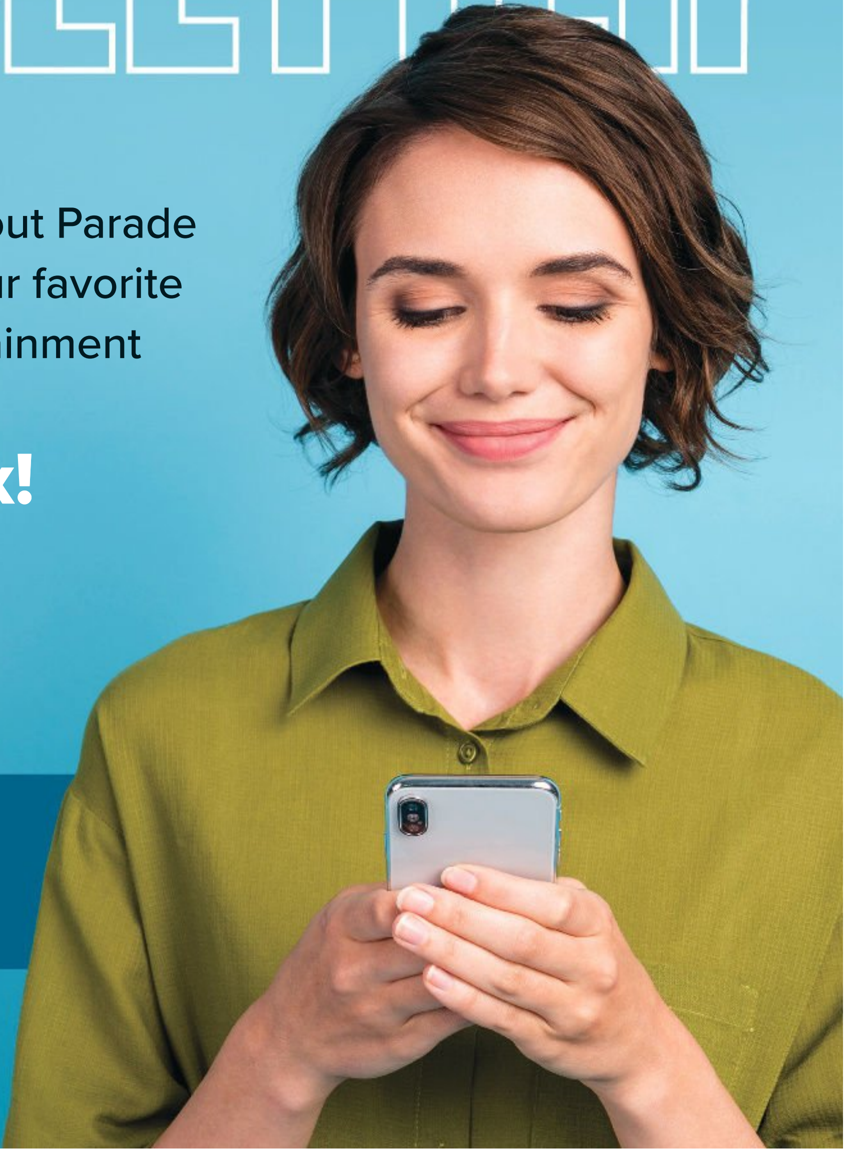


Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

	1	8		34		38	73	
	2						74	
	26						66	
	24						62	
	23	22		50		54	55	

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to ***Parade.com/numbrix***.

> **I read your column every week and have been fascinated by the times you've described how our minds may play tricks on us. Maybe you can answer this: Now and then, in the middle of the night, I hear someone knock on the front door. When I lived alone, no way would I open the door then, so this sound would leave me awake and unsettled. Then it happened again recently, so I asked my boyfriend if he heard it, but he did not. What's going on?**
>
> ***—Ann Telford, Tucson, Arizona***

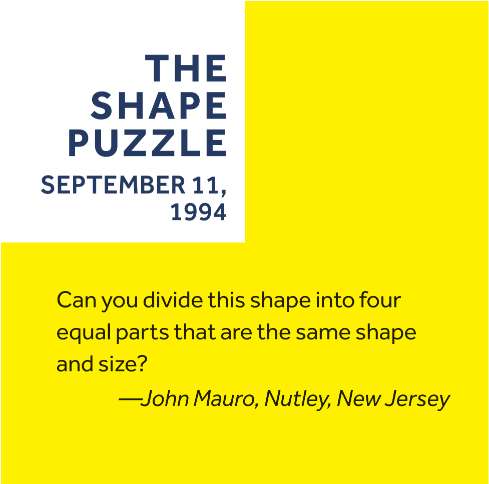
The phenomenon is called an auditory hallucination, and it's quite common in healthy people. (Don't let the term hallucination scare you.) Most often, it occurs while we're in the process of falling asleep or waking up. In those cases, it's due to the brain being partly in a dreaming state. If it happens in the middle of the night, it may be caused by insufficient sleep (thus provoking sleep/wake confusion), stress, or a dream. The noises "heard" are often familiar or ordinary—a text alert, a knock, a phone ringing. But they may also be scary, such as burglar alarm or even an explosion.

Then again, it's possible that you heard a real sound that you identified as a knock, and your boyfriend simply didn't.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE SHAPE PUZZLE

SEPTEMBER 11, 1994



Can you divide this shape into four equal parts that are the same shape and size?

—John Mauro, Nutley, New Jersey

MARILYN'S WORD TEASER

JANUARY 17, 1999

This week's work is **PUNGLE**.
What's the definition?
A. To fork over a donation
B. A dance similar to a tango
C. A kind of foul-smelling cheese
D. To foul up a delicate assignment

ISTOCK

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS

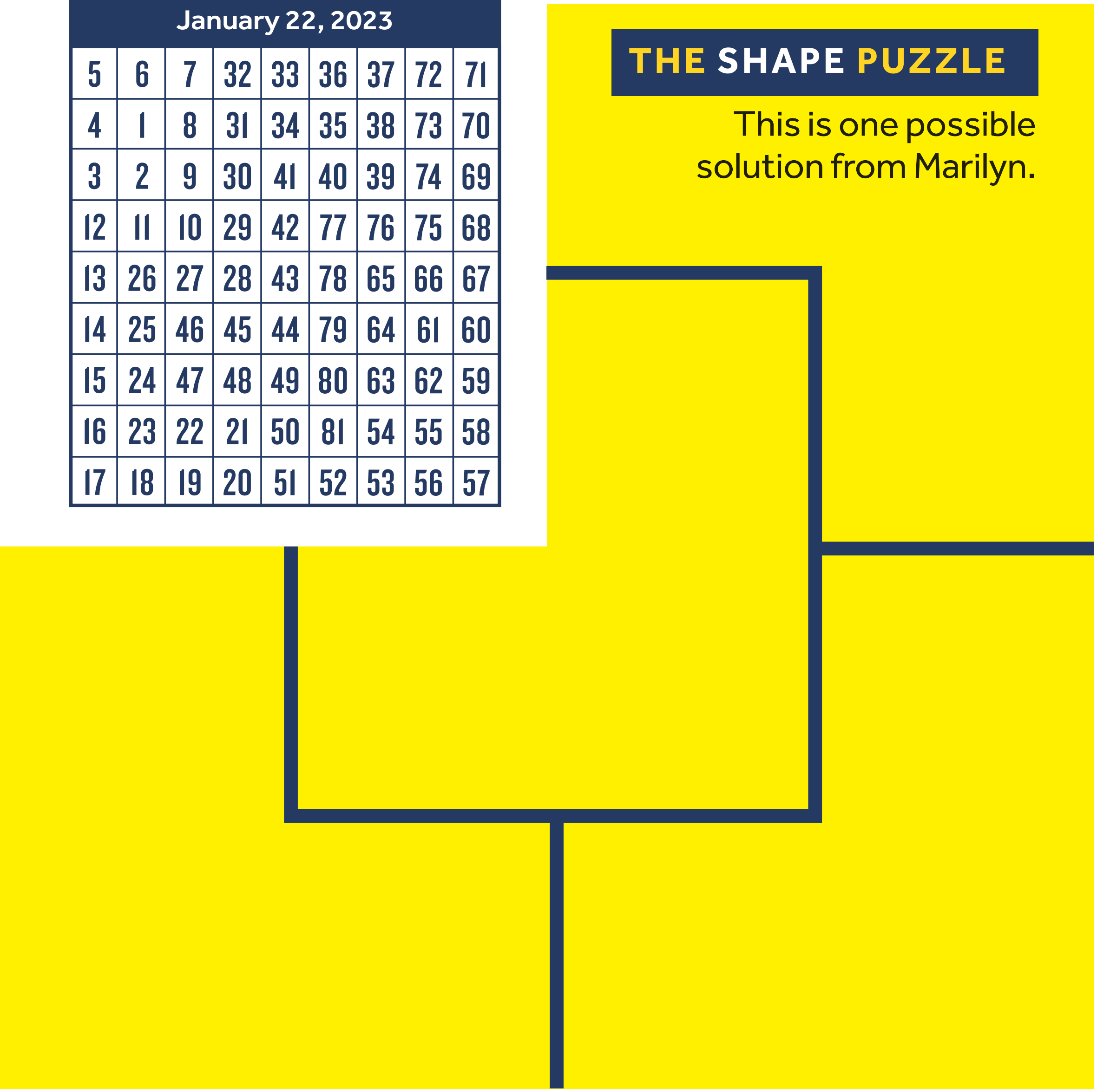
Numbrix®

January 22, 2023

5	6	7	32	33	36	37	72	71
4	1	8	31	34	35	38	73	70
3	2	9	30	41	40	39	74	69
12	11	10	29	42	77	76	75	68
13	26	27	28	43	78	65	66	67
14	25	46	45	44	79	64	61	60
15	24	47	48	49	80	63	62	59
16	23	22	21	50	81	54	55	58
17	18	19	20	51	52	53	56	57

THE SHAPE PUZZLE

This is one possible solution from Marilyn.



MARILYN'S WORD PUZZLE

THE ANSWER IS A. To "pungle" is to fork over a donation or make a contribution.

ISTOCK

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